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SHITIKOV VIEWS UPCOMING DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE IN MOSCOW

LD100050 Moscow TASS in English 2114 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 9, TASS--Aleksey Shitikov, chairman of the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation, spoke of the topicality and timeliness of the international scientific symposium on "The Working People of Europe and the Social Problems of Disarmament". This forum, he told a TASS correspondent, will serve to promote peace and social progress on the continent.

Prominent public figures, trade unionists and scientists from 13 European countries expressed their wish to participate in the symposium, which is to open in Moscow on February 12.

Trade unions and other organizations of the working people of Europe, Aleksey Shitikov stated are right to attach such great importance to the social aspects of disarmament. This is understandable: The arms race falls as a heavy burden on the working class, it increases the threat of an outbreak of a world thermonuclear conflagration. At present we see a growing interest among trade union activists and sociologists of many countries in a fundamental examination of such social problems as employment, higher pay, improvement of living conditions, conversion of war production to peaceful aims, all of which are related to disarmament. The forthcoming symposium, Aleksey Shitikov said, will facilitate the pooling of efforts, the raising of the level of research along these lines.

At present well argumented refutation of fabrications by the advocates of military-industrial complexes in the U.S. and West European countries, alleging that disarmament will lead to an economic slump and a considerable rise of unemployment, is assuming particular importance, Aleksey Shitikov underlined. Such fabrications are today refuted both by real facts about the world economic situation since the Second World War, and by calculations of economists. Actually, far from undermining the economic development of Western countries, disarmament would facilitate a stabilization of the economy, an improvement of the working people's lot.

Soviet public opinion, Aleksey Shitikov stressed, fully approves and supports the peaceful initiative of the socialist states aimed at the materialization of detente, at augmenting political detente by military relaxation. It is from these positions that the Soviet Committee for European Security and Cooperation will come out at the symposium.

DELEGATES PRAISE 'WORKING DOCUMENT' AT GENEVA COMMITTEE

LD091658 Moscow TASS in English 1625 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Geneva, February 9, TASS--The Working Document submitted by the socialist countries on the negotiations to end the production of nuclear weapons in all its modifications and achieve a gradual reduction of its stockpiles until full liquidation became one of the central items for discussion at the session of the Committee on Disarmament now held here.

Speaking at a plenary session, India's representative K.R. Garahan stressed that the problem of nuclear disarmament must be considered as a matter of top priority.

The Indian delegation, he said, studied with great interest the proposals of the socialist countries. We welcome the desire expressed in them to put an end to the nuclear arms race and are of the view that they meet the decisions of the U.N. General Assembly special session on disarmament.

Cessation of the production of nuclear weapons, reduction and liquidation of its stockpiles, prohibition of all types of weapons of mass destruction must become the chief task of the Committee on Disarmament, said Hungary's representative Matias Domokis. The task is served by the document submitted by the socialist countries. In the opinion of the Hungarian delegate, negotiations to end production of nuclear weapons could be embarked upon already at the committee's session next summer. He called on the committee members to do their best to speed up conclusion of an international agreement to prohibit neutron weapons.

The proposals submitted by the socialist countries represent a very important and timely initiative, said Marko Vrhunec, Yugoslavia's representative, to a TASS correspondent. We are of the view, he said, that all delegations participation in the deliberations of the Committee on Disarmament must study the document most attentively.

M. SHULMAN SUPPORTS SALT, CRITICIZES OPPONENTS

LD091100 Moscow in English to North America 2300 GMT 8 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The secretary of state's adviser on U.S.-Soviet relations, Shulman, has spoken out in support of practical steps to limit the arms race. Speaking in Washington he pointed out that the most serious problem today is the removal of the threat of a new war. The current talks on strategic arms limitarion serve this very purpose. Shulman criticized those in the United States who feel that agreement on strategic arms limitation will accord with the interests of the Soviet Union alone and will damage the security of the United States. He said the best way to achieve reliable security for the United States is to limit the nuclear potentials of the two countries, not a runaway arms race.

POLISH DELEGATE SCORES WESTERN ATTITUDE ON MBFR

LD311602 Moscow TASS in English 1516 GMT 31 Jan 79 LD

[Text] Vienna, January 31, TASS--Talks have resumed here today on mutual force and arms cuts in central Europe.

Head of the Polish delegation Tadeusz Strulak told a TASS correspondent that the 17th round of the talks is starting in a situation, when its participants have failed to achieve progress because of the absence of an answer from the Western side on the proposals of the socialist countries of June 8, 1978. The Western countries are insisting on their demand for asymmetrical cuts of armed forces and arms and are making the whole progress of the Vienna talks dependent on the settlement of this issue.

This attitude to the talks on the side of the partners means only one thing for the socialist countries, Tadeusz Strulak said--the wish of the Western countries to gain unilateral military advantages, that would be detrimental to the security of the Warsaw Treaty member-states.

WEST PERSISTS IN 'UNREALISTIC' STAND AT MBFR TALKS

LD081906 Moscow TASS in English 1746 GMT 8 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Vienna, February 8, TASS--A regular 192d closed-door plenary meeting of the participants in the talks on mutual reduction of forces and armaments in central Europe was held today in the Vienna Hofburg Palace. The meeting was presided over by the head of the Czechoslovak delegation Ambassador Emil Keblusek. The only speaker at the meeting was the head of the FRG delegation, Ambassador Ernst Jung.

A statement of a Western press spokesman at a meeting with journalists shows that the speech of the West German diplomat did not contain anything new. Quite the contrary, he was justifying the negative stand on which the Western side persists and because of which the Vienna talks have not been able to achieve any progress in over five years.

The West continues clutching at a discussion of a secondary matter of data on numerical strength of armed forces in an effort to prove the alleged superiority of the Warsaw Treaty countries. This is aimed at achieving unilateral military advantages. Mr Jung did not answer the proposal of socialist countries to keep from increasing numerical strength of the forces of countries participating directly in the Vienna talks while the talks are being held.

Thus, today's speech of the Western delegate showed that the West persists in its unrealistic stand at Vienna. And it should be noted that the latest proposals of socialist countries of June 8, 1978, contain compromise proposals whose acceptance by the Western side could put an end to the stalemate at the Vienna dialogue.

WEEKLY 'INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS ROUNDTABLE'

LD111735 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0800 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

["International Observers Roundtable" program, presented by Vsevolod Shishkovskiy, All-Union Radio commentator, with Mikhail Konstantinovich Zenovich, PRAVDA observer, and Ivan Mikhailovich Shchedrov, PRAVDA special correspondent]

[Text] [Shishkovskiy] Good day, comrades. This week has been exceptionally rich in events which will definitely have a great influence on the subsequent course of international life. I refer primarily to the session of the World Peace Council which took place in Berlin. Over 500 envoys of the peace supporters' movement from over 100 countries took part in this forum. Achievement of a decisive breakthrough in the struggle for a halt to the armaments race, provision of fresh impetus to the detente process and activation of the mass struggle for the real implementation of the aspiration of all mankind are the aims which the participants of the Berlin session sought.

The message from Comrade Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, received an ardent response at this forum. Peace and mankind's progress--the message notes--today to a greater degree than ever before depends on whether success is achieved in breaking the lethal spiral of constantly raising arms production. This is now the key to a continuation and consolidation of the policy of detente and to a solution of the problem of disarmament.

Confirmation of the sincere striving of the session's participants toward precisely such actions was provided by the documents adopted unanimously and with great enthusiasm by the international forum of peace supporters--an address to the five nuclear forces, a document on disarmament and an appeal for a halt to the armaments race. The work of the WPC Berlin session was substantial and intensive, and the range of problems discussed by its participants was extensive and diverse. Envoys from all five continents expressed their solidarity with the people of Vietnam, with the people of Palestine and with all Arab peoples struggling against Israeli aggression, with the patriots of Nicaragua and with the liberation struggle of the peoples of southern Africa. They opposed interference by U.S. imperialism in Iran's affairs. The participants of the Berlin session expressed ardent support for the just cause of the people of Kampuchea. In a special resolution, the WPC called upon all states and peoples of the world advocating peace and justice to strive for recognition of the People's Revolutionary Council of Kampuchea as the sole lawful and genuine representative of the Kampuchean people.

This moral support expressed by the representatives of the progressive world public was greeted with profound gratitude and approval by the entire population of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, which has begun the active construction of a new life. Is that not so, Ivan Mikhailovich?

Reconstruction of Cambodia

[Shchedrov] It is exactly a month today since the People's Republic of Kampuchea was proclaimed. A very great amount of work is being carried out there at present. In effect, the organs of authority are being recreated, and the economy is being restored. In many provinces elections of local people's committees have been held. People's militia organs are being set up. This is a big political campaign. Former participants in the military resistance, communists and representatives of other political and social organizations are taking part in it. This campaign, according to statements by spokesmen of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, will continue over the next few weeks and months.

Great attention is being paid now to the implementation of the minimum program which the front proposed when on the threshold of victory, the implementation of which had already begun in the liberated areas. What is it about? Over 3 million urban inhabitants were exiled to rural areas, and from rural areas many village dwellers were in effect resettled in strategic hamlets and concentration camps. The process of restoring normal life is now underway. This is a very complex problem. The point is that in order to resettle the population it is necessary to prepare housing and provisions. It is even necessary to prepare clothing. The movement throughout the country of millions of people from one province to another and from rural areas to towns is a major problem which the people's government is solving and will continue to be engaged in over the next few months.

Sowing campaigns are already underway in various areas, and this is also a big political campaign. Throughout the country labor teams are currently being recreated, in which there will be payment for labor--(?this is already being done). You are aware that for the last 3 and 1/2 years these labor teams have been compulsorily thrown together, fed twice a day--there were generally some 300, 400 or 500 persons in a labor team--and they received a pitiable soup and no other payment. They were forbidden to move from one village to another and were forbidden to live with their families--families were divided. Now, normal economic relations in the country are having to be restored. The mail service must be reestablished, because the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary authorities canceled the mail service and correspondence was forbidden. A big campaign is underway to restore schools. The schools were virtually all closed and there were only courses to study the ideas of Mao Zedong and the ideas of Pol Pot, that bloody butcher of the Kampuchean people.

Recently, Ros Samay, general secretary of the United Front, said in a Hungarian newspaper interview that much work is now being carried out to reestablish the Communist Party of Kampuchea. This work is of exceptional importance. The leaders and Government of the People's Republic of Kampuchea have announced that the country will proceed along a socialist path of development, and, of course, the reestablishemnt of a militant vanguard in that country and the strengthening of its ranks is a task of tremendous political significance. The Communist Party of Indochina was created in 1930. It led the struggle against the French colonialists. In 1951, when the movement in Vietnam, Laos and Kampuchea was proceeding along different paths, it was decided to create independent detachments of the revolutionary movement in all three countries. The Vietnamese Workers Party was set up. At the end of the fifties and the start of the sixties the revolutionary movements in Laos and Kampuchea were formulated as communist detachments, based on Marxist-Leninist theory. But, because they were in an illegal situation, pro-Beijing agents in Kampuchea who did not have anything in common either with the working class or with the ordinary peasants--they were simply bourgeois elements--seized the leadership of the communist organization of Kampuchea during an illegal struggle. I have in mind above all Pol Pot, who only 2 years ago turned up under that name--his name had been Saloth Sar.

I would like to cite the words of one who knew him very well--the former king of Kampuchea and one of the major feudal lords, Prince Norodom Sihanouk. Norodom Sihanouk told the French LE MATIN: In practice the Khmer Rouge regime was led by just four persons--Pol Pot and Ieng Sary, and their wives, who were sisters, Khieu Ponnary and Khieu Thi Rith. All of them called themselves proletarians descended from poor peasant families, but they are actually bourgeois. Sihanouk said: I was in the same class with Pol Pot at a school which was named after my grandfather, the king of Kampuchea. Ieng Sary's family also belonged to the grand bourgeoisie.

It was he who assumed all the government portfolios after my resignation. This refers to 1976 when both Norodom Sihanouk and Penn Nouth, the former premier, were placed under house arrest. These people then, representatives of the bourgeoisie and even the feudal strata, in conditions of underground work by the communists stole into the leadership of the movement. They spent the major part of their lives, incidentally, not in Kampuchea but in Beijing, and Ieng Sary even in Paris. They were brought to Phnom Penh after victory from Beijing aboard a special aircraft. This also says a lot.

Now, after these long years when the enemies of the Kampuchean people and the Maoists have managed to inflict gigantic damage on the revolutionary movement in Kampuchea, the Marxist-Leninist Communist Party of Kampuchea is being reestablished and it will, as stated by its leaders and organizers, pursue a policy directed at the building of socialism. I would like to remind you that the leaders of the present People's Republic of Kampuchea, Heng Samrin, Chea Sim, Pensovan and Ros Samay, are old communists. Heng Samrin was a member of the Executive Committee of the eastern zone in the underground organization of the Communist Party of Kampuchea. They are veterans of the revolutionary and liberation movement and they are already setting the task of reestablishing the Communist Party of Kampuchea.

[Zenovich] Now Ivan Mikhaylovich, you have been talking about the ways in which the new Kampuchean leadership intends to restore normal life and work toward restoring their country's position in the family of peace-loving socialist states. In that regard, please tell us what role is allotted to solidarity between the new Kampuchean leaders--and the party which they are now recreating completely--and the general struggle of the peace-loving peoples and the world communist movement?

[Shchedrov] First of all, I would like to say that before the victory of the People's Republic of Kampuchea, the country had been turned into a bridgehead for whipping up tension. The new republic, which is only 1 month old, has made a statement that it will establish relations of friendship and neighborliness with all countries based on the principles of peaceful coexistence. What is meant is the socialist neighbors, Vietnam and Laos, and also the developing country of Thailand and other countries of the region. I would like to say that this is not merely a statement--in just 1 month we can already see the results. First, there are no provocations; not a single provocation has been recorded on the border with Thailand. That is new: Previously, hundreds of people had died and not a single day passed without the bombardment of Thai territory from Kampuchea. There are no provocations now. Moreover, Western observers are surprised to see that the big flow of refugees which was expected has not materialized. Western and Peking propaganda have again failed, so to say, because they prophesied that tens of thousands would be crossing the border to flee the new regime.

A second point: There exists a committee for the Mekong which for over 3 years was ignored by the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary clique. Its business is the development of the Mekong River which flows along the border of Laos, Thailand, Kampuchea and Vietnam. For the past years the representatives of Vietnam, Laos and Thailand have taken part in it. The People's Republic of Kampuchea has now said that it will take part and at its last session the committee welcomed that statement. In the near future the committee will be working normally, and that is a big thing because its work includes not only the development of the Mekong River itself, but also that of an extensive region. At stake here are powerplants, industrial development and fisheries: In general, the integral development of the region.

[Zenovich] In other words, the integration of all economic activity.

[Shchedrov] Yes, of course, and in conditions of peaceful coexistence between states with different social systems.

[Zenovich] But what reaction is caused by this policy, all the measures which the new government is now taking, from the international communist movement and other progressive forces in the world?

[Shchedrov] This is the idea I would now like to stress: The watershed between the revolutionary, democratic and progressive forces in the world and those who are now conniving with imperialism, whatever the reasons for their attitude toward Kampuchea and Vietnam. Just look at the great stronghold that has been built for socialism in Indochina: 50 million of the Vietnamese people are on the socialist road, the 3 million-strong Lao people are on the socialist road, and a republic which was born only very recently indeed--the People's Republic of Kampuchea--has also said that it will take the socialist road. A sharp demarcation can now be seen in the countries. Who opposes them? Primarily China, which is showing all the depths of its true nature. In particular, Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States has shown this even more clearly. Everywhere he uttered the same anti-Soviet slogans and also urged all countries to unite against the stronghold of socialism in Southeast Asia. In addition his visit was accompanied by a cannonade from Chinese batteries bombarding Vietnam.

Here I would like to emphasize the point from which we began: First, the advocates of the peace movement have adopted a clear-cut and uncompromising position of support for Vietnam and Kampuchea. The communist parties in the region--the Communist Party of Japan, the Communist Party of the Philippines, the Communist Party of Indonesia, the Communist Party of India, the communist parties of Sri Lanka and Bangladesh--those throughout the region have adopted the same uncompromising stance of support for Kampuchea and Vietnam. This movement now is one of support in many respects, and it will obviously grow. The socialist countries and the progressive forces will give aid, real aid, to the People's Republic of Kampuchea to restore its economy and build a peaceful life.

Iranian Liberation Movement

[Zenovich] Do you not think, Ivan Mikhaylovich, that the processes now unfolding on the Indochinese Peninsula and around Vietnam and Kampuchea are not isolated? If we look at other events now taking place in the world, it seems to me that they form a part of the overall processes of liberation, in the very deepest sense of the world: processes of liberation which are now enveloping the entire globe. What is happening in Indochina is to some extent, to a definite extent, interlocked with the overall events in other parts of the world--I mean above all the events now unfolding in Iran.

[Shchedrov] Yes, that is very true. I think here that even this line can be seen. Just look who supported the shah. Primarily the Americans, and China. Even the U.S. and Chinese intelligence organs, according to press reports, have coordinated their work over the Iran events. Here too there is connivance.

[Zenovich] Yes indeed, this connivance between reactionary forces, this reciprocal link between Washington and Peking, can indeed be observed in various parts of the world. If we look at what is happening in Iran now, we can say for sure that in a way--not the same way as in Kampuchea, of course, because Iran held a special place in the imperialist economic system and in imperialist strategy in general--and yet the processes taking place there in a way are essentially interlocked with those taking place in Kampuchea.

That essence lies in the fact that the people of Iran are also fighting for the liberation of their country both from the reactionary forces which were impeding the country's development and from the external forces which in connivance with internal reaction were guiding Iran along a path which virtually prevented its people from attaining independence, from attaining a better life. In this regard, I think we can say bluntly that this week has demonstrated how deep the processes taking place in Iran really run. If we generalize all the processes now taking place in the world, and which have been especially noticeable this last week, then they add up to the peoples' wish to be masters in their own homes, whether in Kampuchea or Iran.

[Shchedrov] And again, the part of the enemy is played by American imperialism which had implanted its bases inside Iran. Its accomplice is Beijing, both in this region and the other region. This shows in general that Beijing is now engaged in large-scale subversive activity against both the forces of socialism and the national liberation movements. For instance, consider the latest events in Africa.

Economic Conference of Developing States

[Zenovich] Yes, indeed, as the forces of reaction are conniving in attempts to prevent the liberation of the peoples, the peoples themselves--and I mean above all the young developing states--are uniting to defend their interests in a united front. I think that in this regard, of the events which took place last week the one which attracts most attention is the conference taking place in Arusha in northern Tanzania. Currently gathered there are representatives of countries included in an organization which is called the Group of 77. This group, which includes a total of 117 states of Asia, Africa and Latin America, advocates the establishment of a new and equitable international economic system. Essentially, their business is to formulate a common platform for the developing countries to present at the fifth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. That conference is scheduled for this May in Manila.

[Shishkovskiy] Mikhail Konstantinovich, what makes it necessary for representatives of so many young states to assemble and jointly ponder a united strategy for developing their economies?

[Zenovich] The point is above all that the need to overcome backwardness is not merely a domestic problem for each state, but also a highly acute global problem. For many reasons, and above all as a result of the past dominance of colonialist relationships, there remains a substantial gulf in the world in economic relations in general. It must be said bluntly that the present relationship between the advanced capitalist countries and the developing states provokes acute dissatisfaction among the latter. It is caused primarily by the fact that, while verbally pretending that they support and even share the young states' concern, the Western powers are actually impeding any steps which threaten their privileged position.

At present on the world's potentially richest continent there are 17 countries out of the 29 which are, according to UN data, among the least economically developed. As a whole, about a half the population of the independent African countries is living, essentially, in poverty. It is not surprising, therefore, that it is precisely the African representatives in the Group of 77 who are now the main pioneers in initiating all means to remove discrimination in economic, trade, monetary and financial relations.

[Shchedrov] I would like to develop this idea: Now, when there exists a big world of socialism, a socialist community, these questions take on another aspect, if you like, because in the last 25-30 years we have accumulated great experience in equitable economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries and the developing states.

I recently was in India. Our stable relations with India, which are based on the firm foundation of cooperation between the first country of socialism and a developing state, are continuing to develop. In India there are now over 70 major projects which have been built or are being built. Our cooperation in general has reached a new and unprecedented stage. And yet another important detail: The Soviet Union was the pioneer in rendering aid to the developing countries in the construction of state sector enterprises. When India asked the United States for aid to build state metallurgical combines at Bihai and Bokaro, the United States refused to subsidize these projects. Now, however, the Western countries also have been obliged to subsidize the construction of state sector enterprises which form the basis of economic independence. This new important factor grows now with the appearance, strengthening and expansion of CEMA's functions. This important factor, of course, does not give the imperialists the chance to act from positions of strength to choke the developing countries, and it creates a good basis for the struggle for economic independence against the foreign monopolies.

Imperialist Presence in Africa

[Zenovich] I agree with you, Ivan Mikhaylovich. And, indeed, the question concerning the expansion of cooperation with the socialist countries as a method of reducing dependence on the capitalist world is being discussed at the conference in Arusha. The anti-imperialist positions which the African representatives have adopted in Arusha indicate the deepening of the liberation movement and the enrichment of its content. What we are talking about here, in other words, is the development of the revolutionary process and thereby the merging of the struggle for national independence and economic emancipation with the struggle for the elimination on the African Continent of the seats of tension and conflicts which are being maintained there, artifically maintained there.

It is easy to see the deep internal link between the imperialists' refusal to meet the developing countries' demands for restructuring the system of international economic relations based on equality and justice, and their striving to preserve at all costs the most dangerous seats of tension on the Continent in the shape of Salisbury and Pretoria. If one speaks about the essence of this policy, then its nub, as the facts show, consists of efforts to hinder the international isolation of these regimes by any means with the aid of all kinds of diplomatic initiatives and also by secret or obvious cooperation with the racists by which they maintain the possibility of stepping up the violence against the freedom fighters, covering it up with the like of the so-called internal settlement which, in essence, preserves their authority and economic privileges under African labels.

According to Patriotic Front information--and it is now supported by reports which have appeared in the Western press--the NATO powers are continuing in all kinds of devious ways to strengthen the military potential of the regimes in South Africa and Rhodesia.

That is not all. Of great danger in this respect is the striving of the opponents of detente, the opponents of the SALT-II treaty, to link, so to speak, the problem concerning the conclusion of this agreement with the struggle of the African patriots against the illegal regimes and with the aid being rendered to this struggle by the socialist countries. Certain Western circles clearly are trying to pass off their maneuvers around the South African problems as guardianship of international detente, and the African peoples' just struggle against racist domination as, supposedly, obstacles on the road to the further deepening and development of detente.

What can be said about this? Leonid Ilich Brezhnev, in an interview with TIME magazine, stressed that it would not be just or realistic to expect the peoples of this or any other areas to abandon the struggle for their legitimate rights in the name of the concept of detente which is misinterpreted by some.

Soviet Disarmament Initiative

[Shishkovskiy] In discussing the most important events of the past week, one should emphasize the new initiative made by the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries at the Geneva Disarmament Committee. It requests that talks on ending the production of nuclear weapons and the gradual reduction of stockpiles, including their complete elimination, should begin this year. It is proposed that consultations to prepare the talks should begin during the committee's session which has now begun.

The numerous commentaries which have recently appeared in the foreign press testify to the great interest which the socialist states' initiatives have engendered in the world. This is not fortuitous. After all, the move from general words about the desirability of nuclear disarmament to a businesslike search for ways of accomplishing this task is being proposed. This task is truly vitally important. When the talk turns to nuclear weapons one immediately recalls the tragedy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki: in split seconds both cities were reduced to ruins by the explosion of atomic bombs dropped by the Americans. The world's present nuclear stockpiles are equivalent to approximztely 1.3 million Hiroshima bombs. There are enough to these weapons to destroy the entire world population 15 times over. For the first time in history the threat has emerged of man himself destroying human civilization. Only be destroying nuclear weapons can this threat be removed. It should be stressed that from the very moment that nuclear weapons appeared in the world the Soviet Union has been pressing consistently and insistently for their prohibition and elimination. It will be recalled that in 1946 our country posed this task. Since then, our principled position has remained unchanged. The Soviet Union previously pressed and presses now for all types of nuclear weapons to be removed from nations' arsenals. This line was reaffirmed and developed in Comrade Brezhnev's speeches. To reduce the threat of the outbreak of a new world war and the mass annihilation of people by nuclear weapons, he pointed out, is the central direction of our struggle for peace in modern conditions. The importance of the task of excluding nuclear weapons from states' arsenals was also stressed in the declaration of the Warsaw Treaty member states which was adopted at the recent Moscow conference of the Political Consultative Committee.

Incidentally, the thesis has been spread in the West that the presence of nuclear weapons is almost a guarantee against a big war. But can one build with confidence a firm and lengthy peace if nuclear arsenals capable of blowing up the entire world are maintained under its foundations?

The danger is even greater since in the United States there are forces which do not at all rule out, as they put it, a limited nuclear war. The threat of a nuclear catastrophe is deepened also by the fact that the rulers of China are openly placing their stake on war.

The realization of the nuclear threat is growing in the world. This was shown graphically at the last UN General Assembly session which favored the speediest beginning of the talks on ceasing the production of nuclear weapons and the elimination of stockpiles. Powerful atomic energy must benefit mankind and not destroy material values and annihilate people. It is toward the achievement of this goal that the initiative of the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries, which was made at the Disarmament Committee continuing its work in Geneva, is directed.

In summing up the results of our conversation today, we are fully justified in saying that the struggle for the strengthening of detente, for disarmament and the upsurge of the peoples' national liberation movement remain the main tendencies in the development of the international situation, all the same.

U.S. ADMINISTRATION LACKS 'SUFFICIENT TOUGHNESS' IN PRC RELATIONS

LD091103 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 79 Morning Edition p 5 LD

[Article by political observer S. Kondrashov: "Sower of Mistrust and Hostility; Deng Xiaoping's Visit to the United States"]

[Text] In recent years many obstacles--many and varied--have emerged on the path of international detente. But if we try to define their true nature, perhaps the most suitable words would be mistrust and discord. It is with these that all negative processes and phenomena in international relations traditionally begin. They cause rivalry and develop into antagonism and even conflict.

These are truisms, but it is worth recalling them again in order to highlight another--irrefutable--truism: There is one antipode to mistrust and discord--trust, mutual understanding and cooperation. Trust people but examine them too, people will reply. True. Nonetheless, only through some reasonable measure of trust and respect for another country's interests can the principles of peaceful coexistence and international detente, both political and military, be asserted in practice.

Anyone who has followed Soviet-U.S. relations more or less closely since the early seventies knows how unevenly the process of detente progresses, and indeed sometimes marks time or even regresses. Anyone knows how the fabric of trust can be woven or torn. It is woven through the conclusions of agreements and the exchanges taking place in various spheres and by the SALT-II talks which have dragged on but are nonetheless approaching successful completion. It is torn when certain U.S. circles try to reserve one-sided advantages for themselves, when, in violation of the principles of parity, they want to appropriate the right to interfere in the USSR's internal affairs and when the thesis of the Soviet "military threat" is introduced. How far they have ridden on this "threat?" How many people have been driven to the barracks and how many forced to fight to the accompaniement of talk of a "threat?" This is still not enough. Recently, even louder bells have begun to ring in the West about this threat--a sure sign that a new surge is occurring in the arms race.

Of course, in the United States, as in other Western countries, there are many people who are disciplined to confuse reality and myths and who pin their hopes for a peaceful future not on the "policy of deterrence," still less on a policy of confrontation, but on the achievement of accord with the Soviet Union. Judging by public opinion polls, these people are in the overwhelming majority: over 70 percent of the U.S. population, it can be seen from these polls, prefer reason to arguments based on force. But Western policy is not determined by this majority. Therefore, it is almost always impossible to predict which will prevail--trust, which has carved its path with such difficulty, or the old, "tested" mistrust which is used like a battering ram by the opponents of detente. The balance is wavering.

What does the recent officials U.S. visit by Deng Xiaoping, vice premier of the PRC State Council, add to this picture? On which side of the scales is it placed? In which direction is it pulling?

The recent establishment of full diplomatic relations between Washington and Beijing (30 years late) was played by both sides as a prolog full of rhetoric and propaganda fanfares. The normalization of relations, particularly between two large countries, is a natural matter and of itself a seemingly positive one. But in the case of the United States and the PRC many people, not without reason, displayed anxiety and alarm, asking: Will this bilateral normalization promote the normalization of international life?

To judge from press reports, during their Guadeloupe meeting at the beginning of January the West European leaders warned the U.S. President against playing the "China card" against the Soviet Union and to the detriment of the interests of detente. "Does the United States, which acts on behalf of the entire Western world and whose initiatives in one way or another influence the entire world, have the right to embark irrevocably on this path?" well-known French journalist Andre Fontaine asked in the newspaper LE MONDE. "We must realize where such positions lead," he wrote. "They lead to a return to the cold war and perhaps to something worse for we have returned, as in the fifties, to the escalation of mistrust."

The misgivings voiced both in West Europe and in the United States itself have been so broad and numerous that on the eve of Deng's visit the White House made several attempts to dispel them. At a 26 January press conference President Carter said: "...It will not be a destabilizing factor in the future.... It will on the contrary be a stabilizing factor and will promote the consolidation of peace throughout the world."

Now the Chinese guest has arrived and without any of the proverbial Chinese ceremony, not even bothering with diplomatic etiquette, he has repudiated his U.S. host. From an interview with TIME magazine, timed for the start of his visit, in which Deng Xiaoping urged the West to join China in a "common anti-Soviet front" to "curb the polar bear," to his speeches in Atlanta and elsewhere, it was a week of inflammatory speeches and statements in no way stabilizing the international situation. It was precisely these stale revelations proclaimed from new, U.S. rostrums which were the main political point of the trip, overshadowing the series of less important U.S.-Chinese agreements signed in Washington.

In the United States, through Deng's lips, the Beijing leadership has once again announced that, having bid farewell to the self-isolation of the last years of Mao's life, it is emerging into the international arena not as a constructive force prepared to make a contribution to detente but as an overtly negative force, a destructive force which would appear to be releasing beyond the confines of the Great Wall of China the same squalls of hatred, suspicion and hostility and the same methods of slander and defamation for which the years of the Cultural Revolution achieved lamentable notoriety. Having acknowledged the failure of this "revolution" at home, the Beijing leaders are, as it were, exporting it and are seeking to hold entire states up to public dishonor [na tselyye gosudarstva navesit pozoryashchiye birki] and to put dunce caps on these states.

Figuratively speaking, the columns of the White House were wrapped in dazibao written in an extremely liberal style. What attitude did the Americans take to this? It must be said that, despite all the sensational excitement created by the "historic visit," Deng's actions were greeted less with approval and more with anxiety by the press.

Officials expressed apparent amazement at the "outspokenness" of their guest who "says what he thinks." But some of those who are especially well-informed found that Deng still did not overstep himself because that is not the sort of thing he does at home.... In any case the White House did not deem it necessary to express its attitude to the tirades reviling detente (which, let us add in passing, still remains the official aim of the U.S. Government) and the efforts aimed at achieving disarmament (which also occupies a notable place in the Carter administration's foreign policy program). The joint press communique speaks, in passing, of "differences" over issues which are not specifically identified, and "common interests" and "identical views" in many spheres are emphasized.

Commentator James Reston, noting the Chinese guest's "provocative tone," reported that certain Americans who received Deng "did not like his hints that we must pursue an even tougher line with respect to the Russians." Reston asks: "What would happen if (having arrived in Beijing--S.K.) Carter were to openly declare that Beijing is mistaken in continuing its attacks against the USSR instead of pursuing a policy of detente and of the relaxation of tension?..." This reproachful question is left unanswered: President Carter has not yet traveled to Beijing, and in Washington he has accepted the Chinese leader's sermons without any objections.

The U.S. position does not agree with the Chinese position, but the services offered by Beijing seem tempting to certain politicians. On the one hand, doubts or at least differing opinions with respect to playing the "China card" do indeed exist in Washington. Having had the experience of postwar confrontations, Washington cannot fail to guess toward what kind of slippery path the pilgrim from Beijing is pushing the United States. It cannot fail to realize the importance of normal relations with the Soviet Union and progress in such fields as detente and a SALT-II agreement.

On the other hand the demon of anti-Sovietism is a strong one, and the desire to pull the "China lever" in order to try to extort one-sided concessions from Moscow is also strong. Vacillation is characteristic of the present Washington administration. In the administration itself there is a conflict between militant and more moderate trends.

Finally, Beijing's subversive actions, for all their clumsiness, have been projected onto the broader, U.S. domestic political scene. Their objective is to activate the opponents of detente and improved U.S.-Soviet relations, to create a new "China lobby" on Capitol Hill and in this way to sway in the necessary direction a U.S. administration which does not possess sufficient toughness. The "China card," which was seen as a trump card in foreign policy, is rebounding and is beginning to be played by one group against another in the domestic political struggle within the United States itself. This yields yet another result and also a lesson.

Given the interlinked nature of current international life, there are not all that many simple phenomena and events. After Deng Xiaoping's visit, official Washington is stressing the advantages of developing U.S.-Chinese relations, but if the influence of these relations on the general international climate is considered, clear question marks and obvious minus signs stand out very plainly.

CPUSA on Deng

LD081141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[Text] New York, February 4, TASS--The Communist Party of the United States issued a statement signed by Henry Winston, national chairman, and Gus Hall, general secretary of the party, in connection with the visit to the United States by Vice Premier of the PRC State Council Deng Xiaoping. The following is the full text of the statement:

We, the American people, should think hard about the true meaning of the visit by China's Vice Premier Deng Xiaoping.

This visit is part of the process of building a military understanding between the United States and China--really, in fact, a military alliance of aggression, regardless of what it is called.

This alliance increases the danger of the outbreak of a thermonuclear war. It is a threat to the oppressed peoples of the world fighting for their national liberation. It is a further obstacle in the struggle of the people of the U.S. to reorder our country's priorities--to stop the arms race, slash the military budget, and devote the money saved to solving our terrible economic and social problems.

The issue is not the restoration of normal relations between the United States and China. That should have been done long ago. The issue is also not one or two Chinas. That, also, should have been settled long ago, and on a principled basis, not the way it is being handled now. The issue is what kind of relations the United States and China should have, and for what purpose.

If anyone had any doubts about the dangers in the U.S.-China connection, Deng's visit should dispel them. The way Deng has been talking--his cynicism, his shamelessness--is almost unbelievable. Disregarding completely the way a guest in someone else's country should behave, he has been lecturing U.S. officials and the people of the United States on how to conduct our foreign policy--telling them that detente is wrong, that the agreements like SALT-II are meaningless, and that the United States should be acting more vigorously against the movements of the people for their liberation in Africa, Iran and elsewhere. Agreements and statements are not enough, says Deng. Actions are necessary.

In his attitude toward the national liberation struggles in Africa and Iran you see Deng's true attitude toward the peoples of the underdeveloped countries--contempt for them, for their attempts to solve their own problems, for their cultures. This is simple, extreme great-power chauvinism.

In polls, 75 percent of the American people have been shown to be for detente. But Deng speaks against it. After Vietnam, the American people are firmly against sending U.S. troops to fight colonial wars. But Deng talks about the need for action to counter "defeats" like Iran. How is it a defeat for the American people when the people of Iran get rid of a murderous, bloody dictator?

You see here Deng's cynicism. He knows that the extreme right, the fascist elements in U.S. society, are raising the phony question of: "Who lost Iran?" Deng gives them invaluable help. He intrudes into U.S. affairs by publicly stating his agreement with an open letter by 170 retired U.S. generals and admirals who want to heat up the arms race. He has dinners at the home of Zbigniew Brzezinski, who is working to promote an extremely aggressive policy, even though it means nuclear war. He meets with Nixon. A main purpose of Deng's visit was to strengthen the hand of the fascist, pro-war elements in U.S. society. The meetings with Brzezinski and Nixon are only the part that shows--Deng has been holding secret meetings with the reactionary ultaright.

The Chinese leadership and Brzezinski share the same philosophy about nuclear weapons. Some years ago Mao Zedong said a nuclear war would not be so bad; even if half of humanity were exterminated, the other half would survive. Last year, Brzezinski said in an interview that to think a nuclear war would destroy mankind was "inexact thinking." According to Brzezinski, even if the peoples of the United States and the Soviet Union were wiped out, the peoples of other countries would remain. According to this nuclear idiot, we must not be "egocentric," and exaggerate the importance of the extermination of the U.S. and Soviet peoples.

It is true that President Carter and others in the U.S. Government have, to some extent, dissociated themselves from Deng's statements but not even remotely enough.

For example, Deng had the gall to use the United States as a platform for saying that China would be teaching Vietnam 'some necessary lessons.' Could anything sound more like the imperialists? Who set up this pupil-teacher relationship anyway? Who appointed China the teacher? Is this not great-power hegemonism?

Deng says this at a time when China has amassed 100,000 troops on its border with Vietnam. This statement should have been sharply repudiated by Carter and other U.S. officials. This is not some little question of diplomatic manners like whether to serve Deng with chopsticks or knife and fork. It is a question of war or peace. Not repudiating Deng means encouraging him.

The whole drift of Deng's policy is dangerous for the American people. The current Chinese leaders have added to Mao's policy of instigating war between the Soviet Union and the United States by advocating a war alliance between the United States, the NATO countries, Japan and China. Deng wants the United States, NATO and Japan to build up their armaments even faster than they are doing. He wants them to give modern arms to China. What is the logical end of such a policy except wars, including a nuclear holocaust?

Deng's policy is not in the interest of the people of the United States. Deng will not be learning anything about the American people on this visit. His trips have been carefully chosen. He will be visiting places like aircraft factories and space centers in a few of our more well-preserved cities.

As the leader of a socialist country he should be seeing how our people live. He should see our working people, our black, Hispanic and other minority peoples, our ghettos and decaying cities. He might then begin to learn a little about the true problems of the American people.

We, the people of the United States, have many problems--terrible problems--and they will not be made better, but worse, by the China connection. What we need is not the China alliance, the heating up of the arms race, the increased risk of war--but the opposite. What we need is to slash the war budget and then use the money to create jobs for the unemployed, fight inflation, rebuild our decaying cities and give our people the education and health care they should receive.

SOVIET-U.S. SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION ACCORD SIGNED

LD092248 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0800 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Washington, 9 Feb--An agreement has been signed here on scientific exchanges and cooperation between the USSR Academy of Sciences and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences for 1979-80. The agreement was signed on the Soviet side by Academician Yuriy Ovchinnikov, vice chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences, and on the U.S. side by Dr Philip Handler, president of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

The agreement provides for broad scientific exchanges between the two countries in the most varied fields of fundamental research, including the organizationof bilateral symposiums and seminars, trips by delegations and individual scientists and joint work in a number of areas of natural science.

During the talks between the delegations of the academies, a specific range of subjects involving cooperation in some of the latest fields of physics, chemistry, biology and earth sciences was discussed. The sides stressed interest in further expanding mutally advantageous cooperation which is of great benefit to the development of science in both countries.

Further Cooperation Advocated

LD111614 Moscow TASS in English 1502 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

[Text] New York, February 11, TASS--TASS correspondent Vladimir Matiyash reports:

Scientific cooperation between the USA and the USSR is undoubtedly an essential element of international detente, stated Professor Parsons of Bridgeport University in an interview to the TASS correspondent. He advocated the repeal of all barriers in the path of American-Soviet scientific ties, noting that the peoples of the two countries stand to gain from the expansion of such cooperation. Attempts to put new obstacles in the path of Soviet-American scientific ties and cooperation ought to be resolutely condemned, Professor Parsons said. He pointed out that scientific ties cannot and must not be used by the enemies of detente in the USA for political speculations or as a lever for pressuring the Soviet Union. Scientific cooperation is in the vital interests of both peoples.

The great opportunities for reciprocally advantageous USA-USSR scientific cooperation were underlined by Professor S. Melman of Columbia University. The all-round expansion of Soviet-American scientific ties is one of the fields for developing the entire complex of USA-USSR relations. The reciprocal benefit of such cooperation, he noted, is broadly recognized in American scientific circles. Such ties are an earnest of the continuation of the beneficial process of detente and the expansion of Soviet-American cooperation in most diverse fields.

Participants in a symposium organized by the Stanley Fund, which investigates problems of international relations, came out in favour of expanding USA-USSR scientific cooperation in space exploration. In a report they stressed that Soviet-American cooperation in space exploration could make a considerable contribution to expanding man's knowledge about space and thereby benefit all the world's peoples.

R. Roy, chairman of the Consultative Committee for Exchange of Scientists and Students with the USSR and East European Countries, the National Academy of Sciences, USA, stressed that the development of Soviet-American technico-scientific ties promotes better understanding, trust and cooperation by the peoples of the two countries. The overwhelming majority of American scientists, he writes in the CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, support the development of scientific exchanges with the Soviet Union as a means of expanding the constructive dialogue between Soviet and American scientists. The process of East-West detente helps to expand Soviet-American technico-scientific cooperation.

R. Roy particularly stressed that attempts by the enemies of detente and Soviet-American cooperation to "link" the growth of USA-USSR technico-scientific ties to matters having nothing to do with this noble cause run counter to the interests of peace and improving Soviet-American relations in general.

MOSCOW CITES ANDREW YOUNG REMARK ON KHOMEYNI'S POPULARITY

LD101204 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Anikin]

[Text] UPI reports from Washington that U.S. Ambassador to the UN Andrew Young has again provoked President Carter's anger. Commenting on events in Iran, he said that the religious and political leader Khomeyni might achieve the popularity of a saint, thereby admitting that Khomeyni has enormous prestige among Iranians.

As you know, official Washington supports someone else altogether in Iran, the shah's appointee, Prime Minister Bakhtiar. Young's frank admission has put U.S. diplomacy in an awkward position. Young recently incurred the President's anger by saying that there were hundreds and possibly thousands of people in the United States whom he, Young, would describe as political prisoners. These words from a high-ranking White House spokesman showed everyone the true worth of the international human rights campaign waged by the U.S. administration.

Iranian Embassy Investigated

LD101800 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

["Investigation of Scandalous Affair"--TASS headline]

[Text] Washington, February 10, TASS--TASS correspondent Yevgeniy Yegorov reports:

Documents showing that the Iranian Embassy in the USA spent several million dollars to organize demonstrations in support of the shah of Iran during his visit in Washington in November, 1977, were discovered in the United States Department of Justice. The Washington POST reports that the preliminary investigation of this case is being conducted by the federal grand jury in Chicago, which demanded the documentation from the New York branch of the Iranian state bank that handled money orders sent to Iranian diplomats in the USA, above all, to the head of agents of the Iranian intelligence service in Washington General Rafia. These funds were used to bring into Washington persons of the Iranian nationality from different towns of the USA. They participated in demonstrations in support of the shah and were given from 100 to 200 dollars as "pocket money".

According to reports in the U.S. press, the mastermind of these demonstrations was Iran's Ambassador in Washington A. Zahedi. It is reported that he widely used for these purposes his contacts with Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs Zbigniew Brzezinski and other officials in the U.S. Government.

According to the Washington POST, the White House now tries to urge the Department of Justice to hush up this scandalous affair, fearing that the investigation might throw light on secret contacts between the United States Government and the shah, specifically the contacts between the CIA and the Iranian secret police, SAVAK.

SENATOR JACKSON OUTLINES U.S. PLANS FOR ALLIANCE IN MIDDLE EAST

LD121038 Moscow TASS in English 0820 GMT 12 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Washington, February 12, TASS--The United States has lost control over Iran and this prompts Washington to search for new means of protecting American interests of oil-rich regions of the Middle East and the Persian Gulf area. This is evidenced by a statement made in a CBS television program by Senator Jackson, who knows the administration's strategic plans.

He admitted that Defence Secretary Brown, who is now touring the Middle East, is trying to knock together an alliance that would guard oil resources for the West. It is to consist of Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia. The United States, Jackson said, will support this alliance with money and arms and also formalize relations with it by agreements on "mutual defence." That is exactly what the Pentagon head is now doing in the Middle East.

U.S. ZIONIST LOBBY FAILS TO ATTRACT NEW CONGRESSMEN

LD110028 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The Zionist lobby's crude and unceremonious attempts to inflate even further the shameless anti-Soviet hysteria in the United States and to impose on the U.S. Government a hard line toward the Soviet Union--a line that does not consider the national interests of the United States--provokes growing dissatisfaction in Washington political and state circles. The Zionist organization called the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, which had planned a series of anti-Soviet propaganda measures on Capitol Hill had the opportunity to be convinced of this fact.

The main event was to have been an informative conversation with new members of the U.S. Congress elected to that supreme U.S. legislative body in the November 1978 elections. The Zionists sent invitations to all the freshman legislators--to 77 members of the House of Representatives and to 20 senators. An entire cohort of Sovietologists and other renegades of the anti-Soviet rabble arrived in Washington, hastening to put the untried legislators on the right path and to inject them with a hefty dose of anti-Sovietism.

However, the conversations failed for lack of an audience. Legislators simply ignored this Zionist sortie. As one Washington radio station reported, one of the congressmen actually appeared at the meeting--albeit very late. But noticing that he was in total isolation he immediately left. The Zionists were forced to close up shop then and there.

U.S. REPORT ON AID, HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS NOTED

LD112250 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1930 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The U.S. administration, which claims to be a fighter for human rights, has virtually admitted officially that it gives military and economic support to the most odious regimes. This admission is contained in a State Department report, published in Washington, on the status of human rights in countries receiving U.S. aid including Israel, South Korea and a number of repressive Latin American regimes.

Israel, which, as is known, has received at least $18 billion from Washington in aid in the past 15 years, widely practices torture, including psychological and physical measures against the native population of the seized Arab lands. This is admitted by the authors of the report.

The Seoul regime is yet another major client of Washington. From 1962-1977, it received $14 billion from the United States. According to the authors of the report, far from relaxing its repressions last year, Seoul has evidently increased them. The document stresses that the South Korean police subject prisoners to cruel treatment.

The report cites flagrant examples of the violation of human rights and democratic freedoms perpetrated by a number of other regimes friendly with Washington. These are, first and foremost, the regimes of Nicaragua, Haiti, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Thus, Washington is rendering the most generous aid to the regimes that violate the rights and freedoms of their citizens most cruelly, as well as the generally accepted norms of international law.

ALEKSANDROV ON PRC'S 'PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS' AGAINST SRV

LD92100 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 10 Feb 79 P 5 LD

[Article by I. Aleksandrov: "On the Issue of the Chinese Provocation Against the SRV"]

[Text] Beijing's provocative actions on the border with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam have lately been causing mounting concern among world public opinion. For many months China has been systematically and deliberately building up tension on the Sino-Vietnamese border, inspiring armed incidents in which peaceful Vietnamese citizens and border guards have died. Chinese aircraft and vessels are systematically violating the SRV airspace and territorial waters. The scale of these provocations has notably increased in the past few days. Actually, matters have already reached the stage when groups of Chinese troops have been attacking border regions of Vietnam.

According to numerous reports in the world press, China has concentrated in areas bordering on Vietnam large detachments of group troops, having dispatched there a great number of combat planes and ships. These demonstrative military preparations by Beijing on the Sino-Vietnamese border obviously aim to bring unconcealed military pressure to bear on the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, to unleash an aggression against the Vietnamese people. The Chinese leaders are trying to cover up their military preparations under a dense smoke-screen of misinformation and slander about the SRV and the USSR. In other words, they are trying to camouflage their real agrressive plans.

What can be said about this? The brazen armed intrusions into the territory of Socialist Vietnam and other hostile actions by the Beijing expansionists are the logical result of the policy of provocations inherited by the present-day Chinese rulers from Mao Zedong's great-power course, which they conducted for many years with regard to Southeast Asia in general and Vietnam in particular. These intrusions bare still more the ugly face of hegemonists, who have long been coveting foreign lands. The bandit raids on the SRV by the Chinese military prove once again that Beijing regards Southeast Asia as a zone in which China's rule must be established in the long run, as a bridgehead for the eventual possession of all Asia.

This is why China would like to see the countries of Southeast Asia and those of Indochina first of all, weak, helpless, fighting each other.

Beijing did not want a united socialist Vietnam. With the Indochina war not over yet, the Chinese leadership already started taking steps aimed at weakening Vietnam's position. They captured the Paracel Islands, organized border incidents with Vietnam, began reducing food and other deliveries, stepped up subversive activities among ethnic Chinese residing in Vietnam. The liberation of the south and the formation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam undermined the Chinese leadership's designs and calculations aimed at spreading its control to the entire Indochinese region. Refusing to take into account the real state of affairs, Beijing resorted to gross pressure in a bid to impose its course on Vietnam. When it became clear, though, that the Vietnamese people had no intention of becoming a tool of Chinese policy but, on the contrary, had turned into a mighty obstacle in the path of Beijing's expansionism in Southeast Asia, the Chinese authorities began raising obstacles to socialist transformations in the SRV. They tried to pressure Vietnam by terminating all economic and other ties, and are now creating an atmosphere of hostility around it. [paragraph continues]

They selected as their weapon the antipopular clique of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary in Kampuchea and used it to conduct an undeclared border war against the SRV. The Vietnamese people, who had just recently repelled an imperialist intervention, had to take up arms once again to uphold their country's independence and safeguard its security.

The rapid collapse of the puppet regime of Pol Pot-Ieng Sary, hated by the Kampuchean people, which collapsed like a house of cards under the blows of the Khmer patriots led by the Kampuchean National United Front for National Salvation, aroused the vicious hatred of the Chinese leaders.

In order to "save face" and also to attract extreme international reaction as an ally, the Chinese leaders maintain that the fall of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime was due to Vietnamese efforts, while the aggressive actions against the Socialist Republic of Vietnam that China is now carrying out are represented as part of a line towards counteracting a mythical Soviet expansion.

All honest people in the world received with satisfaction the news about the liberation of the Khmer people from the domination of the reactionary clique imposed upon them from outside, which had caused them terrible suffering and countless victims. No one but the Beijing rulers is trying to exonerate and save these criminal political bankrupts, who had set up in Kampuchea a Chinese model of political structure and zealously transferred the Chinese Cultural Revolution to Kampuchean soil. In vain the leaders are seeking the cause of the Pol Pot-Ieng Sary regime's collapse in the actions of Vietnam and the Soviet Union. They should be sought in Kampuchea itself and in China, for they stem from that regime's antipopular policy and the actions of its Chinese sponsors.

The question arises: Why, for what purpose is Beijing making military preparations on the Sino-Vietnamese border? Indeed, all the world is well aware that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam never even thought of threatening China. These demonstrative military preparations by the Beijing leadership are evidently directed at firing up a hotbed of military tension in its relationship with Vietnam, and, given the opportunity, at expanding the scale of military provocations, while blaming Vietnam for deliberate aggression against China.

Can any reasonable person believe this slander--the accusation that the Socialist Republic of Vietnam is "preparing and unleashing an aggression" against China? Of course not. The Vietnamese nation has proved that it came out and comes out for peace and that aggressive acts against its motherland are doomed to failure.

CHINESE 'PROVOCATIONS' ON VIETNAMESE BORDER REPORTED

6 Feb Incidents

LD091500 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Hanoi, February 9, TASS--The Vietnamese Information Agency (VIA) reported new provocations by the Chinese military forces on the Vietnamese border.

On February 6, Chinese soldiers attacked Vietnamese frontier guards in the province of Lai Chau killing three and wounding six. In the province of Hoang Lien Son three Vietnamese frontier guards were killed.

The Beijing authorities, stresses the paper NHAN DAN, are massing their troops on our borders and threatening our people with war. Under the circumstances our duty is to constantly improve vigilance and combat readiness.

9-10 Feb Incidents

LD111354 Moscow TASS in English 1303 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

["New Dangerous Provocations"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, February 11, TASS--The Armed Forces of China continue staging provocations against Vietnam. As the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY reports, several groups of Chinese servicemen, upon crossing the border river in Hoang Lien Son Province on February 9, laid an ambush in Ban Lau village of Muong Khuong district. The Chinese soldiers fired on a Vietnamese border patrol. Then the intruders opened fire on peaceful people who were engaged in agricultural work. As a result of the firing, a Vietnamese serviceman and a peasant were wounded.

On February 10 units of Chinese servicemen intruded into Vietnamese territory and committed numerous crimes in Lang Son Province. In the morning the Chinese attacked a post of Vietnamese militia in Loc Binh district. One militiaman was killed and another captured.

The incident, which occurred on the same day when a Chinese battalion under the cover of powerful mortar and machinegun fire, invaded Vietnamese territory in the area of Thanh Loa community, Cao Lok district, and captured three militia posts as well as tried to capture Hill 512, appears to be a most serious one.

The brazen criminal actions of the Chinese side, the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY emphasizes, are indicative of ill-intentioned designs of the ruling circles of China aimed at escalating provocations against Vietnam. Those actions bring about an extremely tense situation on the border between the two countries.

The ruling circles of China bear responsibility for the grave consequences of the dangerous criminal actions, the VIETNAM NEWS AGENCY points out.

SRV Protest to PRC

LD101358 Moscow TASS in English 1312 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

["Vietnam's Protest"--TASS headline]

[Text] Hanoi, February 10, TASS--A representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam made a resolute protest to a representative of the PRC Embassy in Hanoi, condemning the actions of the ruling circles of China that mastermind armed provocations in borderline districts of Vietnam.

The Vietnamese representative said that from February 1 to February 8, armed forces of the Chinese side more than 60 times opened fire on the Vietnamese territory and staged attacks on observation and frontier posts. On February 7 and 8, Chinese planes violated Vietnam's air space many times.

In Hoang Lien Son Province on February 7, tens of Chinese soldiers, crossing the borderline river, broke into the Banquan Village. Vietnamese Armed Forces rebuffed the violators. In the evening of the same day, Chinese soldiers laid an ambush in the Vietnamese territory and opened fire on a patrol of Vietnamese militia, killing three persons.

All these criminal actions of the Chinese side, said the representative of the Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, just as gross threats of vice premier [Deng] attest to ill-intentioned designs of the ruling circles of China that rabidly conduct a policy hostile to the Vietnamese people, create an extremely tense situation in the area of the Vietnamese-Chinese border, grossly violate sovereignty and territorial integrity of Vietnam, threaten seriously its security.

The Foreign Ministry of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the representative said, strongly protests against new criminal actions of the ruling circles of China, resolutely demands that they should be immediately stopped. The ruling circles of China must bear complete responsibility for all grave consequences of their brazen actions.

PRC 'SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES' IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES HIT

OW092125 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1230 GMT 9 Feb 79 OW

[Mitin commentary]

[Text] China's leaders pay lip service to normalizing relations with their neighboring countries, but they are actually expanding their subversive activities in those countries. According to press agency reports from Asia, in recent months China has sent more than 100 separatist agents and subversives to India's Manipur state alone. Those separtist agents and subversives received special training at a so-called "school for fighters to liberate neighboring countries" located in China. The school's graduates are assigned to organize soldiers and people of various nationalities in their own countries to oppose their governments, to (?assassinate) political leaders and to agitate for the expression of pro-China sentiments.

According to Indian press reports, the Beijing rulers have been assisting the insurgents in various ways in an attempt to establish several small countries in northeast India which will become appendages of China. At the same time, the Chinese secret agent organization is going all out to cooperate with the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, which has long plotted to establish a "Himalayan federation."

Beijing is also supporting the separatist movements in other countries. It supports several thousand insurgents active in northeast Burma, providing them with money and weapons. It is continuing to give support and assistance to the so-called "New People's Army" opposing the legal government in the Philippines. Beijing also continues to heighten its subversive activities in Indonesia. Chinese agents have entered Indonesia disguised as Overseas Chinese to carry out secret activities, thus causing great concern in Indonesia.

Beijing is not only undermining from within the territorial integrity of Asian countries. China has recently been making vigorous military preparations near the borders of these countries. For instance, Beijing has transported military materials and ammunition to Xizang, which borders India. According to an estimate made by experts, the military materials and ammunition Beijing has transported to Xizang are sufficient to supply 20 divisions for 2 months in case of war. China is also carrying out extensive military construction on occupied Indian territory and has massed large numbers of troops along the Sino-Vietnamese border.

Asian countries often ask: If China does not desire to pursue expanionist ambitions, why does it need the ammunition and weapons it is to obtain from the West?

Concern for Asian Peace a 'Pretense'

OW091400 Moscow in Mandarin to China 0900 GMT 9 Feb 79 OW

[Nikolayev commentary: "Beijing's Concern About Peace and Stability in Asia Is a Pretense"]

[Excerpts] Current Chinese leaders pretend concern for peace and stability in Asia and claim an interest in defending the people of China and Southeast Asian countries against the threat of war and aggression from the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, attempting to use this to justify their hostile policy toward Socialist Vietnam. The so-called Vietnamese threat exists only in statements by Chinese leaders and articles and commentaries by Beijing's propaganda machine. Facts prove differently. It is not Hanoi but Beijing that is causing the alarming and tense situation. Newspapers and magazines in the United States, Japan and many other countries continue to report that China is massing troops and combat equipment on the China-Vietnam border and in China's southern provinces adjacent to Southeast and South Asian countries.

Imperialist propaganda heartily endorses Beijing's supposition that China may launch a blitzkrieg against Vietnam. The New York TIMES says gleefully: "The Chinese dragon is ready to leap and is baring its claws." From all indications, imperialist and Western militarist blocs are very eager to encourage China to attack Vietnam, reignite the flames of war in Indochina, and again exacerbate the situation in Southeast Asia, which has begun to normalize since the Kampuchean people rose in rebellion against the pro-Beijing Pol Pot-Ieng Sary puppet clique and won. These blocs are trying to capitalize on the Chinese leaders' hostility toward Vietnam and other socialist countries and to turn China into their instrument to push their imperialist and neocolonial policies in Asia. Wasn't it for the same reason that during Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States, the U.S. side made statements like Washington and Beijing have common goals and the two sides share identical views on Asia? The Washington POST was forced to admit that this is by no means the road that the great majority of Americans are willing to take. We are convinced that neither is it the road the Chinese people are willing to take.

No empty talk--for example, that this is for peace and stability and so forth--can justify the Beijing authorities' adventurism and dangerous policies. Nor can it justify the Beijing authorities' preparing to take militarily adventurist moves against Socialist Vietnam. Even the U.S. President, under pressure from progressive and peace-loving American public opinion, was forced to warn and call on Deng Xiaoping to show restraint in dealing with the Vietnam question. People in Japanese Government circles have expressed fear that the present tensions on the China-Vietnam border might lead to armed conflict. Chinese leaders have shamelessly stated that they would teach Vietnam a lesson. But even those they think are their closest friends and allies today do not support them. As for socialist countries, developing countries and peace-loving forces throughout the world, they unanimously and indignantly denounce the Beijing warmongers, the Beijing leaders who incite the Chinese people to launch aggression against the fraternal Vietnamese people.

BEIJING FALSE 'PROPAGANDA' ON CAMBODIA DENOUNCED

LD101845 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

[Summary] A few days ago the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY released another report concerning Kampuchea, repeating tales about some sort of pockets of resistance to the new authorities there.

The report even listed eight areas where hostilities were going on. This report was also broadcast by a subversive radio station operating in the Khmer language from south China.

"It was also quoted by some Western news agencies which use any pretext to distort the truth about the liberation struggle of the Kampuchean people. However, it is noteworthy that even the Western news agencies do not conceal their mistrust of the reports about military actions in Kampuchea invented in Beijing. According to REUTER these reports are exaggerated, to say the least. As usual in the latest reports by the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, naming concrete places of clashes, the slanderers fully betray themselves. It is exactly in these places, just as elsewhere in Kampuchea, that a normal peaceful life is being restored. Hundreds of Kampucheans who have been forcibly resettled by the fallen regime, including residents of the capital city have already returned to their homes. The revolutionary authorities supply them with food and other essential goods. Economic life in the republic is getting back to normal. Peasants are starting fieldwork, and in the port of Kompong Som, where clashes are reported by the NEW CHINA NEWS AGENCY, work is proceeding apace to clear the environs of the port where the port facilities are being put back in order.

"As it spreads tales about the situation in Kampuchea around the world, Chinese propaganda keeps silent for an understandable reason about other facts concerning that country. These are Beijing's attempts to organize gangs out of the remaining Pol Pot troops for subversive operations against the new popular government of Kampuchea. Reports have appeared, for example, that ships loaded with arms intended for a handful of Pol Pot troops hiding somewhere in the mountains are leaving China for the southeastern coast of Kampuchea. Beijing officials, including Deputy Premier Deng Xiaoping, openly declare they will continue to help the remaining Pol Pot troops to wage guerrilla warfare in Kampuchea.

"The hostile actions of Beijing against the People's Republic of Kampuchea have come to the notice of the Asian public." AKAHATA says that China's pledging support to the Pol Pot regime is interference in Kampuchea's affairs. Kampuchea is not the only target of Beijing's Asian policy. China also uses rebel units for interference in Burma, Thailand and Malaysia.

COMMENTARIES ASSESS RESULTS OF DENG VISIT TO U.S., JAPAN

'Capitalist Road' Philosophy

LD101750 Moscow TASS in English 1253 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

["Capitalist Roader Philosophy in Practice"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 10, TASS--TASS political commentator Mikhail Yakovlev writes:

Commenting on the results of Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States and Japan, the world press writes these visits indicate that he shares completely the views and approves of the policy of the most reactionary imperialist circles. Making numerous speeches and statements in the United States and, later, in Tokyo, Deng Xiaoping fiercely attacked the very idea of detente, declared against any measures aimed at the limitation of the arms race, slandered the Soviet Union's policy and came out for creation of some sort of "united front" against the USSR.

The striving to heighten tensions by any means, to set at loggerheads different countries and peoples, to achieve his self-seeking political aims that would suit Beijing's hegemonistic aspirations--such is Deng Xiaoping's characteristic tactic.

Observers point out in this connection that Deng Xiaoping's entire political philosophy is based on the "thesis" that any means are good to achieve his aims.

It should be noted that in the past it is precisely Deng Xiaoping who intimated that it makes no difference to him what political system will exist in China as long as he himself and his supporters could be implementing their hegemonistic aspirations. He expressed this in the following wording: "It is not important what colour the cat is, black or gray, as long as it catches mice". This sort of "philosophy" was named in the past "capitalist road" philosophy, that is capitulation to capitalism and Deng Xiaoping himself was proclaimed "capitalist roader number one".

And now, achieving power, he is actively implementing this "capitalist roader" philosophy in practice. It is precisely this philosophy that permeated all his speeches and actions during the recent trip abroad. And what else could be expected from this man, who admitted himself that it makes no difference to him what social system will exist in China. "Let us wait ten or twenty years. Who knows what system we shall have by that time?", he said cynically when addressing a group of Japanese politicians.

Deng Xiaoping's recent visits to the United States and Japan show that he remains true to the unprincipled "capitalist road positions" he proclaimed before, that contradict radically the vital interest of the working people of China, of the entire working class movement.

Deng 'Failed' To Achieve Goals

OW100304 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 9 Feb 79 OW

[Mitin commentary]

[Text] In its reports on Deng Xiaoping's return to Beijing, XINHUA has repeatedly stressed that his visit to the United States was a complete success. XINHUA said that China highly appraised the development of Sino-U.S. relations and was deeply satisfied with the major results of Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States. There is quite a discrepancy between this exaggerated assessment and the assessments made by the press in the United States and other capitalist countries on the concrete results of Deng Xiaoping's visit to the United States.

Everyone knows that during his visit, the vice premier of the Chinese State Council tried in every possible way to obtain a promise from U.S. Government officials and industry leaders to provide China with large loans and the latest equipment for its four modernizations, or for Zhongnanhai's plan to speed up its military buildup.

It should be pointed out that Deng Xiaoping did not go to Washington emptyhanded. He proposed to the U.S. ruling clique that China would agree to let the United States make full use of China according to China's own plan to oppose the Soviet Union and the entire socialist community, to facilitate the pursuance of an imperialist policy, as long as the United States promised to provide China with aid.

What was the result? According to U.S. press reports, Deng Xiaoping's task as a salesman was to force the "China card" into the hands of the U.S. ruling clique in exchange for U.S. aid. But he failed. Washington apparently was very cautious in colluding with the Beijing leaders on the basis of anti-Sovietism. This is why Washington was prudent in dealing with Deng Xiaoping. The U.S. ruling clique dared not ignore the sentiments of American workers, who have more and more firmly advocated constructive cooperation with the Soviet Union in order to strengthen detente.

The Washington POST emphatically pointed out: The wish of the U.S. Government that Deng Xiaoping would not attack the Soviet Union during his visit to the United States did not come true. U.S. Government officials had hinted to Deng Xiaoping that the United States did not want to be used as a rostrum to strangle relations between Washington and Moscow. But the Chinese leader time and again called for joint action against the Soviet Union. Thus it can be seen that the U.S. ruling clique knows well that if it frames its foreign policy according to Beijing's prescription, it will have no future and will even be dangerous.

(?What is significant is that) President Carter, disregarding Deng Xiaoping's advice and suggestions, reiterated that the United States was willing to sign a second SALT agreement with the Soviet Union. Deng Xiaoping did not make any progress in obtaining loans and equipment for Beijing's militarization plan. U.S. Government officials and industry leaders still hesitate about whether to undertake certain obligations in this regard. Why? According to the Washington POST, it is because they have no confidence in China's repayment ability. How will China be able to repay foreign debts of $70 billion or more? China's total foreign trade volume last year was only about $20 billion, which is much smaller than tiny Taiwan's. The Washington POST pointed out that China's economy is extremely backward, which is also a reason for serious doubt about its repayment ability. It also cannot be sure that China will be able to fully use modern technology provided by the West.

'Primary Aim' To Form Alliance

OW081130 Moscow in Mandarin to China 1600 GMT 7 Feb 79 OW

[Station commentator Loshev]

[Text] Deng Xiaoping's recent visits to the United States and Japan are obviously aimed at stepping up Beijing's collusion with anti-Soviet cliques and at intensifying international tension. These are the primary aims of Deng's visits. He and other Chinese leaders can only find their anti-Soviet and antisocialist allies among aggressive imperialist cliques and reactionary forces, but they dare not openly admit their adherence to this camp. Instead, Deng Xiaoping said: "We resolutely oppose a new world war," and quickly added: "China's foreign policy primarily aims at retarding the outbreak of a new world war by all means." Thus, we can see that Beijing's leaders have not abandoned their theory of the inevitability of a new world war, since they have only talked about delaying it. Their argument is unsound, however, because in practice the Chinese leaders have done everything possible to intensify world tension. They have flung all sorts of abusive charges at detente and opposed all measures for arms limitations and arms reduction.

During his visits, Deng Xiaoping said threateningly that the Chinese leaders were determined to teach Vietnam a lesson. This is borne out by their massing of a large number of troops on the Vietnamese border.

The Beijing leaders' openly aggressive nature has aroused angry protests from the world's progressive public and world communism. The Japanese Communist Party called on the Japanese Government to ask China to end its armed provocations on the Sino-Vietnamese border furing Deng Xiaoping's visit to Tokyo. Communists protested the Chinese leaders' anti-Soviet deeds. Exposing Deng Xiaoping's objective in visiting the United States, Secretary General of the U.S. Communist Party Gus Hall warned that Beijing is attempting to form an alliance with the United States, NATO and Japan to oppose the Soviet Union. This is the primary aim of Deng Xiaoping's visits. The Danish Communist Party Central assembly pointed out that the Chinese leaders' current policy supports imperialist ambitions. It must be noted that Deng Xiaoping's unrestrained manners have aroused indignation in U.S. social circles and that these circles do not sympathize with the Soviet Union and socialism. The New York TIMES pointed out that Deng Xiaoping's anti-Soviet attacks even embarassed certain members of the U.S. Government. The Chinese leaders like to describe Deng Xiaoping's visits as extremely successful. In a sense, we endorse this view. That is, the Beijing leaders have been very successful in revealing themselves as allies of frantically aggressive imperialist forces.

'MASSIVE DEMONSTRATIONS' BY YOUTHS IN SHANGHAI REPORTED

LD092328 Moscow TASS in English 2017 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Singapore, February 9, TASS-- According to reports reaching here from China in Shanghai, one of the largest of China's cities, massive demonstrations continue of young people who have come to the city from areas to which they had been forcibly resettled under the pretext of the necessity for labour re-education in the village. According to press reports, from Shanghai alone over a million people were sent to rural areas. The demonstrators assemble in the central streets, before the building of the city committee of the Communist Party of China and the City Revolutionary Committee demanding a return to their native towns and employment.

The boys and girls protest against the persecutions and reprisals and against the forced systematic resettlement to rural or remote areas.

These are far from being the first massive demonstrations by Chinese youth against the lack of rights and arbitrariness. Last month about three thousand young people sent to rural areas during the so-called "Cultural Revolution" had staged demonstrations for several days in front of Shanghai's City Revolutionary Committee demanding employment and protesting against forced resettlement.

The Chinese press, trying to hide the growing scale of discontent pervading the country, demands reprisals against the demonstrators. The Shanghai newspaper QIEFANG RIBAO direct "punishment" of persons manifesting indignation over the arbitrariness of Chinese authorities.

FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES FOR OFFICIAL VISIT

Predeparture Interview

LD102350 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1900 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

[Text] French Foreign Minister Jean Francois-Poncet arrives in Moscow tomorrow for an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government. In an interview with Soviet television and radio, Jean Francois-Poncet noted the importance of the talks which he will hold with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. The cooperation between our countries, Jean Francois-Poncet stressed, is developing under conditions which are evoking satisfaction for both sides. On the political level, our cooperation is very full and active. Our trade ties should treble between 1975 and 1979. Considerable successes have been obtained in cultural cooperation and I can say in particular that the Moscow-Paris exhibition which will open at the Pompidou cultural center in Paris in May is awaited with great interest and impatience.

The French foreign minister went on to say: In our relations we must contribute to the development and deepening of detente, and this must begin, undoubtedly with the implementation of all the Helsinki conference decisions. This accords with the innermost aspiration of all peoples. We share the aspirations and wishes of your country to obtain a success on the road to disarmament. In striving to accomplish this very important task it is necessary to direct all possible resources toward social and economic development and not toward arms. These are the important themes that we will discuss in Moscow. Allow me to express the conviction, Jean Francois-Poncet concluded, that the coming visit to the Soviet Union of the French president, which he will carry out at the invitation of Mr Brezhnev, will greatly contribute to the cause of further developing cooperation between France and the Soviet Union and will signify a new stage in the consolidation and deepening of detente.

Statement Upon Arrival

LD111906 Moscow TASS in English 1820 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 11, TASS--The foreign minister of France, Jean Francois-Poncet, who arrived today in Moscow for an official visit at the invitation of the Soviet Government, in a statement for the press conveyed greetings from the people of France to Soviet people. During the forthcoming talks with USSR Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, the guest said, we shall examine a complex of important international questions. Relations between our two countries, he went on, are developing under the sign of cooperation, accord and friendship. I am convinced that the forthcoming Moscow talks will help to develop cooperation between France and the Soviet Union, will permit us to strengthen and deepen detente, and also to compare the view-points of the two countries on important international problems and reveal on the majority of them, I hope, common positions.

Begins Talks With Gromyko

LD121330 Moscow TASS in English 1320 GMT 12 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Moscow, February 12, TASS--Negotiations opened in Moscow today between the foreign ministers of the USSR and France--Andrey Gromyko and Jean Francois-Poncet.

An exchange of opinions was held on topical problems of world politics, such as the development of the process of detente, an end to the arms race and transition to real measures in disarmament.

Also considered were the main directions in bilateral Soviet-French relations and satisfaction was expressed with the progress of cooperation in different spheres. The negotiations are being held in a business-like and friendly atmosphere.

Then Andrey Gromyko gave a luncheon in honour of Jean Francois-Poncet. The Moscow-Paris or the Paris-Moscow route is a route of the peace policy, the foreign minister of the USSR said in his speech.

An exclusively important event--a new Soviet-French summit meeting is to take place soon, Andrey Gromyko said. And the Soviet leadership, Leonid Brezhnev [as received] believe that the official working visit to the Soviet Union of the president of France will be marked by a tangible contribution to the development of cooperation between our states, to consolidation of friendship between the Soviet and French peoples. As far as we can judge, the French side abides by a similar approach, Andrey Gromyko said.

We note with satisfaction, he said, that the line of development of relations in the most different spheres--from major problems of world politics to concrete spheres of cooperation has been holding a prominent place in the policy of the Soviet Union and France for the second decade now.

Life shows that there is the mutual political will not to stop at what has been achieved, said the foreign minister of the USSR.

In mid-1960's, Andrey Gromyko said, Soviet-French cooperation started developing under the slogan of struggle for relaxation of international tension. Since that time detente keynotes the coinciding or parallel actions of the Soviet Union and France in the international arena. One of the favourable examples of such efforts is a considerable, as compared with the past, improvement of the situation in Europe, which has been largely promoted by our two states wither [as received].

It is difficult to overestimate the role played in this respect by the Helsinki Final Act, Andrey Gromyko said. But, he went on, can we ignore the fact that the level of military confrontation is very high in Europe, as well as the concentration of arms, including the most destructive ones.

In conditions when the arms race continue to intensify in the world, and it is well known who unleashed it, there is no and cannot be any more urgent, more humane task than to press for a breakthrough in the cause of disarmament.

This, without exaggeration, is a world task, a task of historic importance, Andrey Gromyko noted. In the Soviet Union's belief the main thing that states should observe is the principle of non-inflicting damage to anybody's security. Disarmament talks can be conducted productively only on the basis of equality and non-aquisition by any of the sides participating in the talks of unilateral advantages, the USSR foreign minister stated.

Jean Francois-Poncet pointed to the firm character of relations which develop on a permanent and constructive basis. From 1966 detente becomes the core of France's independence foreign policy, said the minister of foreign affairs of that country. Relations between France and the USSR continuously deepen. Important documents have been adopted, and reciprocal goods exchanges develop intensively.

Jean Francois-Poncet expressed the conviction that the forthcoming French-Soviet summit meeting will give a new impulse to the development of friendship and cooperation between the two countries, which must promote the implementation of the Helsinki conference's Final Act which meets the profound aspirations of mankind.

The relaxation of tensions is connected with security, the French minister said. It is necessary for detente and security to strengthen each other.

One should not remain an indifferent witness to the stockpiling of the destruction means without counteracting it. This particularly applies to Europe where the concentration of armaments constitutes the greatest danger. In these conditions one cannot fail to emphasize a special importance of Leonid Brezhnev's forthcoming meeting with Valery Giscard d'Estaing, Jean Francois-Poncet said.

FRENCH CP'S MARCHAIS COMMENTS ON PRC FOREIGN POLICY

LD091632 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Paris, February 9, TASS--Speaking over Radio Monte Carlo General Secretary of the French Communist Party Georges Marchais touched on China's foreign policy. In this question, he stressed, between the French Communist Party and the Beijing leaders there exist very serious differences. For instance, the Chinese leaders are the advocates of NATO, European integration, who favour sacrificing national sovereignty. They maintain a special relationship with Pinochet in Chile. Beijing threatens certain neighboring countries such as Vietnam, for instance. Having resolutely condemned the aggressive intentions of the Chinese leadership with regard to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Georges Marchais stated: "We state clearly: Let them keep their hands off Vietnam. Otherwise, to protect freedom and independence of Vietnam, a broad front will be created [as received] which had been in existence in the last three decades." The general secretary of the French Communist Party also warned against a policy which would make it possible for U.S. imperialism to utilise China for purposes which have nothing in common with the interests of the working people and whole peoples, stressing that his warning was addressed to both the Chinese leaders and the leaders of the capitalist countries.

'PLURALISM' OF ITALIAN SOCIALISTS CONTRASTS WITH USSR SYSTEM

LD091015 Moscow NOVOYE VREMYA in Russian No 6, 2 Feb 79 pp 18-20 LD

[G. Smirnov article: "Ensnared by Compromise and Reformism"]

[Text] In the dense fog of the anti-Soviet, antisocialist and, in the final analysis, anticommunist campaign currently being waged in the West, certain individual sallies and sudden attacks by our ill-wishers might go unnoticed, were it not for one particular circumstance. No one is surprised when figures and organizations known to be anticommunist and frequently financed by the imperialist intelligence and propaganda organs make attacks against the Soviet Union, real socialism and communist parties. It is more difficult to understand such actions on the part of those who, in their activity, would seem to be appealing to the ideals, if not of communism, then at least of democracy and socialism. But, however, difficult and unpleasant this may be, it is necessary to try to understand their motives. Especially when it is a question of the standpoints of the leadership of a party with which our relations have been correct and frequently friendly over a considerable period of history.

The Italian Socialist Party [PSI] (it is precisely this party that we are talking about) in the course of its long and, in many respects, contradictory history has occupied various positions with respect to the October Revolution, Leninism and the building of socialism in the USSR. For instance, it actively supported the movement in defense of the land of soviets, advanced a "hands off Soviet Russia!" slogan and in 1919 announced that it was joining the Comintern. In the period of revolutionary crisis which began in Italy after World War I the PSI did not, however, manage to find the paths which would lead to the victory of a socialist revolution in its own country. In the mid-thirties the party concluded a pact on united action with the Communists in the struggle against fascism, and from 1941 it cooperated actively with the Communists in the resistance movement. After World War II the rapprochement--to some degree--with the communists continued, as did its cooperation with them in the struggle for progressive democratic transformations in Italy. But the PSI gradually began to evolve toward the right, it broke its pact with the Communist Party and entered the "center-left" bourgeois government. However, the Socialists' experience of participation in government showed the impossibility of pursuing democratic reforms without reliance on the masses. Since the late sixties the PSI has been undertaking various maneuvers in order to broaden its social base, trying to establish cooperation with the Communists and other leftwing forces in the period when F. de Martino was at the head of the party and then veering in the direction of overt anticommunism and anti-Sovietism, as became normal practice when B. Craxi took over party leadership.

A characteristic example of this veering to the right was the international conference on "Marxism, Leninism and Socialism" held in Rome in the last days of November 1978 on the Italian Socialists' initiative. The very composition of the conference's participants--apart from a number of reputable political parties these were Trotskiyists, renegades from the Italian Communist Party [PCI] and so-called "dissidents" from Czechoslovakia, Poland and certain other socialist countries participating in the conference's work--attested to the provocative schemes of those who organized the function.

In pursuit of the objective set by those who organized the conference, many speakers tried to adhere to the idea of Marxism and Leninism being in a "crisis situation," and moreover there was talk not merely of the "inapplicability" of Leninist teaching under the conditions of the developed countries of the West but also of its "obsolescence" in general. This gave British rightwing Labor Member of Parliament Magee a pretext for expounding a veritable apologia of capitalism, which allegedly has given historic service and is capable of guaranteeing simultaneously both industrial development and civil liberties.

The atmosphere of unconcealed hostility toward the USSR and toward the Leninist experience of building socialism embarrassed even those who are not numbered among the supporters of revolutionary transformations in the world. In response to the attacks against the USSR and other socialist countries, Labor Party member Ken Coates, for example, delivered some sharp polemical remarks against those who called for a "break" with the socialist countries. In particular, he observed that a paramount task for all champions of socialism and freedom is, undoubtedly, to search for broader internationalist unity and to overcome old schisms....

The Communist Fabio Mussi, who spoke at the conference, stressed the need for a more restrained and strict approach to reciprocal criticism, pointed out the inaccuracy of the historical assessments of Leninism cited at the conference, and called for the traditions of various countries and parties to be taken into account more correctly. "We must not forget," Mussi said, "the influence of the Soviet model on world history and on the future, and this model must not be criticized without giving thought to the qualitatively new element which it has introduced into contemporary history.

The newspaper L'UNITA, central organ of the Italian Communists, mentioned in ironical terms in its report on the conference the attempts by the conference organizers to "stigmatize and bury" Leninism, to put real socialism on trial, and to propose some kind of "alternative socialism." Together with Giovanni Bozzo, who addressed the conference, L'UNITA poses the just question: "What then is the explanation for the fact that Leninism, despite all the 'negative characteristics' ascribed to it by the conference, is continuing to achieve such lasting, historic successes?"

The bourgeoisie's ideologists and their minions proclaimed repeatedly that the October Revolution failed and that Leninism is dead. However, reality attests quite the reverse: Over the 61 years since the socialist revolution's victory in Russia, the new system has triumphed in many countries of the world. The firm establishment of socialism in the world has generated tremendous changes in all spheres of social life including the sphere of social awareness. It is becoming increasingly difficult for the defenders of capitalist systems to disregard the achievements and advantages of real socialism.

"A discussion of problems of Leninism," A. Donini, member of the PCI Central Control Commission, observed recently, "is underway not just in Italy or among the Western communist parties but also within the socialist world. It is a living discussion because it sets itself the goal of singling out everything of imperishable significance, not only at the stage when the working class embarks on running the state but also at the subsequent turning-point period when the transition to socialism is made. However, polemics with Leninism become antihistorical, not disinterested, and tend to lead people astray if they proceed from a desire to destroy the general points of contact in the theory and practice of Leninism between Soviet experience and the international communist and workers movement."

New proof of this was provided by another discussion on the question of Leninism which developed recently in Italy. This discussion arose in connection with the Italian Communist's successes in recent years. As is known, in the last parliamentary election they polled 34.4 percent of the votes cast, coming very close to the number of votes polled by the main ruling party, the Christian Democrats [DC]. This has given them the opportunity, together with other political parties, to join the parliamentary majority on which Italy's one-party government was able to rely until recently.

By no means everyone, either within or outside Italy, has found the prospect of a further strengthening of the positions of the country's leftwing forces to their liking. The Communists' movement ever closer to the country's political leadership sphere troubles both the conservative groupings among the PCI's parliamentary coalition allies and overt anticommunists overseas. This has engendered the present sharp anticommunist campaign.

The DC's rightwing leaders are forcefully advocating that the results of the last parliamentary elections be ignored. The U.S. State Department issued a statement against allowing the Italian Communists into power, and so forth. However, something new has also appeared in this campaign just recently, primarily, the massive attack on the PCI by the leadership of the PSI--a party which, it might appear, is the Communists' natural ally in the struggle for the democratic transformation of Italian society. This attack was initiated back in mid-September 1978, when C. Signorile, deputy political secretary of the PSI, declared that, in his opinion, the biggest obstacle in the way of the PCI's entry into government is its Leninist ideology. Abandon your ideological heritage, C. Signorile seemed to be telling the Communists, and the path to government will be open to you.

This impudent blackmail was fittingly rebuffed by PCI Secretary General E. Berlinguer. He said that all those who put such proposals to the Italian Communists can legitimately be asked: Do they really know who Lenin is and what Leninism is? "I venture to doubt this," the PCI leader said, "and in any case, I believe that the lesson taught to us by Lenin fully retains its significance: He devised true revolutionary theory and overcame the "orthodoxy" of the reformist theories of development, stressing the subjective aspect of the party's independent actions and opposing such vices of social democracy as positivism, vulgar materialism, and the passive idea of waiting for a 'messiah'.

This resolute rebuff, the Italian weekly L'ESPRESSO observed, was not slow in producing a retailiatory reaction especially from the Socialists, who immediately split into supporters and opponents of the line of the present PSI leadership group headed by Political Secretary B. Craxi. Among the latter the majority is made up of supporters of former PSI Political Secretary F. de Martino. One of the representatives of this group, the economist Paolo Leon, wrote in a letter to the newspaper AVANTI: "The polemics against the PCI are based on the class arguments of conservative reaction: The demand for reunification of Leninism is an example of sectarianism which has nothing in common with either politics or ideology."

In this heated atmosphere a long article appeared by PSI leader B. Craxi, who took it on himself to expound the position of one of the oldest European socialist parties on such an important issue as its attitude to Leninist teaching and to the experience of building socialism. However, the Socialists' leader was inspired, evidently, not by the history of the Socialist Party and its best traditions but, most likely, by hopes of sharing the government pie in the future with the bourgeoisie. The final conclusion reached by B. Craxi in his theoretical calculations is couched in precisely this spirit: "If we want to proceed to socialist pluralism," the PSI political secretary writes, "we have to move in an opposite direction to that pointed out by Leninism." Well, you cannot put it more candidly than that!

Motivated by a desire to denigrate Leninist teaching at all costs, the Socialists' leader draws from the arsenal of socialism's opponents the most vulgar conjectures about the "harsh collectivist directives" and "authoritarianism" of the Soviet socialist system. In other words, we have before us a routine attempt to discredit socialism--the most humane, and most democratic social system in existence now or at any time in the past.

Of course, there is nothing fundamentally new in this attempt. What we have is a repetition of the Second International dogmas which V.I. Lenin exposed. Nor is there any secret about the purposes of this subversive activity: to attempt once again to question the need for a socialist revolution and for the establishment of working people's power, whose historical purpose is to eliminate the old exploiter system and secure the socialist transformation of society.

In trying to "defeat" Leninism B. Craxi realized that, as a socialist, he had to paint some positive ideal which might be used as a contrast to real socialism. But in what does this ideal consist? "Socialism in its democratic version," B. Craxi writes, "is based on the ethico-political proposition which forms part of the tradition of reformist enlightenment. It can be boiled down to the following propositions: the socialization of the values of liberal society, the dispersal of power, the equal distribution of wealth and life's comforts, and the strengthening and development of institutions for participation by the working classes in decision-making processes."

Despite all vagueness of this formula, we must nevertheless be grateful to its author: It at least shows out of what, from what kind of material, and by which route, B. Craxi intends to embark on building socialism in Italy.

"Leninism is based on the conviction," B. Craxi writes disparagingly, "that human nature was spoiled by the appearance of private property, which undermined the primitive community and which unleashed the class struggle." The leader of the Italian Socialists does not agree with this assessment of the role of private ownership, and he appears to forget that the Socialists will have to implement their ideal under conditions of the class struggle in Italy. The natural question suggests itself: If the class struggle is not waged, if one disengages oneself from the class struggle, by what other route is it possible to arrive at socialism?

There is something on this score in B. Craxi's formula cited above. It is above all "reformist enlightenment" and the "strengthening and development of institutions for participation by the working classes in decision-making processes." Let us not disregard, a priori, these two features. They have their value in the struggle of the working class and working people. As has been shown by the development of the workers' movement in Italy itself, the Italian Communists and Socialists have succeeded in their joint struggle in achieving a great deal both in the sphere of strengthening the proletariat's class awareness and in the masses' political education. Something has also been done in the sphere of securing some influence on the adoption of decisions on a statewide scale and working masses' participation in running local organs of government. The latter applies above all to the country's "red" regions.

Statistics show that about 60 percent of the Italian population now lives in regions and provinces run by Communists and Socialists. Relying on the masses and using all the means at their disposal, including administrative management, leftwing forces' representatives have achieved considerable results in the regions and provinces run by them, and these results have provided the masses with greater opportunities for struggle and better economic, social and cultural standards of living. But does this mean that the nature of the bourgeois state in which the Italian people live has changed? Obviously not. After all, come what may, the question of power still remains central to socialist revolution. The question can only take this form: There is either the power of the working class acting in alliance with all the working peoples, or there is the power of the bourgeoisie. There is no third alternative.

Let us now turn to B. Craxi's idea about "the equal distribution of wealth and life's comforts," of the desirability of "economic pluralism" with a multiplicity of centers of power competing among themselves.

B. Craxi evidently believes that the process of strengthening the leftwing forces' positions and strengthening and developing the institutions for the working classes' participation in decision-making processes will be painless and straightforward from beginning to end. It would be a vain task to seek in the PSI leader's arguments an answer to the question as to what measures the party of the working people will take if the classes and groups wounded in the process of the redistribution of wealth and power decided to resort to extraparliamentary means of pressure. Or is B. Craxi proceeding in advance from the inevitability of capitulation? There are grounds for thinking so: After all, the PSI was the only party which proposed making concessions to the terrorists who kidnaped A. Moro.

Perhaps in discoursing about "economic pluralism" B. Craxi has in mind the economic "freedom" existing in certain capitalist countries where social democrats are in power? We know, however, what this leads to. To an even greater consolidation of capitalist procedures which are merely camouflaged with social democratic labels.

V.I. Lenin, to whom the Socialists' leader is so allergic, wrote with every reason: "The transition from capitalism to communism is an integral historical epoch. Until it ends, the hope of restoration inevitably remains with the exploiters, and this hope is transformed into attempts at restoration." The question "who triumphs over whom," of which will win--socialism or capitalism--expresses the basic content of the transitional period.

Neither the uncontrolled admittance of the capitalist sector into the economy of the transitional period nor economic pluralism with the absence of a directing political force is capable of insuring the victory of socialist principles in the economy and consequently of realizing Craxi's ideal of the "equal distribution of wealth and life's comforts." Evidently all that remains is to rely on some "free play of political forces," on concessions or perhaps simply the philanthrophy of the propertied classes!

The fact that this is precisely how matters stand is shown by the specific course which the PSI leadership has been seeking in recent years to impart to the PSI. This is a course toward ever greater adaptation to the conditions of the capitalist system, a course toward the expansion of the party's traditional base through broad sections of the petty and middle bourgeoisie. By proclaiming the ideas of economic, political, philosophical, religious and other pluralism and calling on other political forces, above all the Communists, to actively renounce the ideas of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism, the PSI leadership is increasingly revealing its inability to break free from the snares of compromise and reformism and to embark on the path of a real struggle for socialism.

It is not our intention to advise B. Craxi how to act in order to arrive at socialism. Indeed, we have different views of socialism! Ultimately time will decide.

The edifice of socialism built in our country according to V.I. Lenin's behests is a strong edifice. It has now been standing for more than 60 years. We are proud of this, for neither the winds of foreign intervention nor Hitler's onslaught were able to destroy it. As far as others are concerned, let them build, only why make such a clamor? God knows, when the wind blows, not a trace will be left of the straw hut of pluralism, with its enlightenment and reformism.

LISBON ANNOUNCES ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC TIES WITH PRC

LD081520 Moscow TASS in English 1452 GMT 8 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Lisbon, February 8, TASS--The Government of Portugal today announced the establishment of full diplomatic relations with the PRC.

The governments of the two countries are to exchange ambassadors within a three month period, says a communique to this effect.

REPORTAGE ON IRANIAN EVENTS, BAKHTIAR GOVERNMENT'S RESIGNATION

Situation Continues to Deteriorate

LD091239 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 6 Feb 79 p 5 LD

[Own correspondent A. Filippov report under general heading: "Iran: Tendency Toward Deterioration"]

[Text] Tehran, 5 February--Popular demonstrations demanding the resignation of the present promonarchy government and the peaceful transfer of full power to the national democratic opposition and the clergy are continuing in the Iranian capital and most of the country's other cities. It is also being observed that the opposition is trying to enlist the army's support in implementing its own plans for assuming power and is avoiding unnecessary bloodshed.

Proclamations issued in Tehran today note that workers and employees in the oil, mining and energy industries and rail and air transport and the employees of various state and private institutions support the program announced by Ayatollah Khomeyni for restructuring [social] life--a program which sets, in particular, the task of consolidating national independence and ridding [the country of] American military, economic and political influence.

Many local observers point out in their commentaries that the government has virtually lost control over political and economic life. For more than 2 months now the most important sector of the economy--the oil industry--has been working under the control of combined plant committees. The national banks have refused to transfer money for weapons purchased from the Americans. More than 50,000 people from the so-called people's security corps created by opposition organizations are maintaining order in the capital alongside the existing state police.

In the southern part of the capital, where Ayatollah Khomeyni's temporary residence and various public organizations are located, life is controlled by people's street and block committees, which include representatives of various strata of the population including the clergy. Trade cooperatives and stores are operating there, selling goods and foodstuffs at reduced prices and collectively resolving questions of cleaning up the streets and repairing buildings and sidewalks. Similar people's self-administration organs have also appeared in many other population centers.

The front pages of today's newspapers carry the news that about 2,000 relatives of pilots and technicians from the Air Force bases at Tehran, Hamadan and Dezful who were arrested the other day for participating in antigovernment demonstrations with the population are holding a sit-in in front of the Justice Ministry building. They are demanding the release of the arrested men.

Tehran radio, reporting continuing strikes by ministry and department personnel, announced that an "indefinite" strike has also been declared by the employees of the Prime Minister's Office as a protest against firing on demonstrations which has occurred in recent days. Yesterday another group of members of parliament gave up their seats. They stressed in their statements that they are unwilling to serve an obsolete system of monarchical rule and will fight for its elimination together with all Iranian patriots.

Bazargan Demands Bakhtiar's Resignation

LD091254 Moscow TASS in English 1211 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 9, TASS--Mehdi Bazargan, who was appointed the head of the provisional government of Iran by Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the national-democratic and religious opposition, demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Shapur Bakhtiar. Speaking at Tehran University today, he put forward a programme which provides specifically for the establishment of an Islamic government, a referendum on Iran's future state system, adoption of a new constitution, parliamentary elections, and measures to restore the economy. Mehdi Bazargan has not yet announced the composition of his provisional government.

Provisional Government's Program

LD091310 Moscow TASS in English 1209 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Paris, February 9, TASS--The head of the provisional government of Iran, Bazargan, urged the shah-appointed prime minister, Bakhtiar, to resign. He stressed that Bakhtiar's "government" is completely isolated. At a meeting with pressmen, FRANCE PRESSE reports, Bazargan put forward the following programme of the provisional government:

1. Transfer of power by the government of Bakhtiar to the provisional government.

2. A popular referendum on Iran's state system.

3. Reorganization of the structure of power in Iran.

4. Elections for a constitutional assembly.

5. Drafting of a new constitution of Iran.

6. Formation of a new government.

The head of the provisional government urged the army to limit itself to the discharge of its mission--defence of the country's frontiers.

Armed Forces Divided

LD091935 Moscow in English to South and Southeast Asia 1400 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Massive demonstrations and rallies in support of the provisional government of Mehdi Bazargan continue in Iran. Big demonstrations took place in Tehran and other cities on Thursday. Some 3 million people took part in the demonstrations in the capital. The demonstrators urged the immediate resignation of the shah-appointed cabinet, the abolition of the monarchy and the proclamation of a republic. They called on the workers of government and private establishments and on the military to boycott the Bakhtiar cabinet and from now on to abide by the orders of the provisional government. Demonstrators carried posters calling on the United States to end its interference in the domestic affairs of Iran. Other posters urged the American imperialists to get out of the country.

News agencies report that hundreds of soldiers and pilots and officials of various ministries took part in yesterday's march in Tehran. In many cities like Esfahan or (?Qom) the power went into the hands of the supporters of Ayatollah Khomeyni and the provisional government of Mehdi Bazargan. Shahpur Bakhtiar again declared he was not going to resign. Observers point out he still counts on the army and threatens to take repressive measures if the provisional government decides to get down to action.

The New York TIMES reports, however, that a close associate of Bakhtiar has admitted that the Iranian Armed Forces are so divided now that the proshah government can hardly rely on their support. Bakhtiar is also losing support in the Majlis. According to foreign news agencies, more than 40 members of the Majlis have refused to cooperate with him. It is reported that Bakhtiar had to use a military helicopter to get to the building of parliament during the massive demonstrations in Tehran.

The Italian weekly L'ESPRESSO points to the sinister role that the United States is playing in the events in Iran. The weekly writes that close associates of the Ayatollah Khomeyni fear that the United States may resort to what is known as the Chilean tactic in Iran. This means in effect that the United States may allow Khomeyni to come to power and then would create obstacles in his way until it finds that army interference is necessary to do away with the chaos allegedly caused by the republican system.

Bazargan Forces Consolidate Power

LD101202 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2300 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by Viktor Anikun]

[Text] According to agency reports from Tehran, the process of consolidation of the forces backing the head of the provisional government, Bazargan, continues in Iran. The ministries of foreign affairs, public health, economics, finance and energy have gone over to him, while the staff of the national air company has announced its support for the provisional government. And so, the AFP correspondent points out, the basic levers which control the country's life are now in the hands of Bazargan and his supporters. In the opposite camp, that of Prime Minister Bakhtiar, the shah's appointee, the flight of his supporters continues. The Regency Council has virtually collapsed; 70 of the 268 deputies to the shah's parliament have resigned. At present, in the correspondent's view, Bakhtiar is supported only by the elite. Nonetheless, according to latest reports, Bakhtiar has threatened that he would again use force to crush popular disturbances.

Bazargan Speech at Tehran University

LD092050 Moscow TASS in English 1650 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

["New Phase in the Revolution"--TASS headline]

[Text] Tehran, February 9, TASS--The head of the provisional government of Iran Mehdi Bazargan underlined, speaking today at a mass rally at Tehran University, that the Iranian revolution entered a new stage in its development. Describing the main tasks of this stage, he said that the provisional government must take full power, restore the economy, hold a referendum on the future state system and then hold parliamentary elections. After that the provisional government will deem its tasks to have been fulfilled. As the prime minister said, at present he is busy forming his cabinet and the names of the ministers will be announced very soon.

Touching on the situation in the Iranian Army, Mehdi Bazargan said that the majority of soldiers support the anti-shah movement and stressed that the army must not be "a tool of imperialism."

In the opinion of commentators, during yesterday's mass demonstrations all over Iran, the provisional government received unquestionable "vote of confidence" from the Iranian people. Participants in manifestations in Tehran adopted a resolution nothing that the departure of the shah, and the return of Ayatollah Khomeyni to the country and the proclamation of the provisional government are just the first steps on the road towards the complete victory of the people's revolution.

Political circles note that the consolidation of the new government is accelerating. Ever new ministries and departments are declaring their solidarity with the national democratic movement. Staff members of the Foreign Ministry, the Public Health Ministry, the Ministry of Economics and Finance, of Information, of Energy, the Iran Airlines, the "Aria" national shipping company have gone over to the side of Mehdi Bazargan's government. The provisional government is receiving support from the official news agency PARS. At Qom, Esfahan, Shiraz and in the southern part of Tehran new municipal bodies have been established.

Meanwhile institutes of state power set up by the shah are falling apart. The so-called Regents' Council 16 practically is not functioning, 70 out of the 268 members of parliament have resigned, the press reports. Nevertheless, the Bakhtiar government outwardly continues to behave as if it retains some real power, though actually only the top army command remains on its side.

[Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 1916 GMT on 9 February carries a shorter version of this report, but which contains the following additional passage: "THE FINANCIAL TIMES, commenting on the situation in Iran, writes that the Iranian crisis has posed a serious dilemma for U.S. military strategists, who express profound concern in connection with the threat which has arisen as regards their radio-interception bases in the vicinity of Iran's borders with the Soviet Union."]

Paris, February 9, TASS--Bakhtiar issued new threats addressed to the activists of the anti-shah movement. In an interview for the Paris paper LE MONDE he stated he will order the arrest of any member of the provisional government who tries to establish control in any of the ministries. Bakhtiar threatened also to bring financial pressure to bear on the participants of the strikes which continue throughout the country and made it clear that the government will still use force to suppress popular unrest.

Beirut, February 9, TASS--In an interview for the paper AN-NAHAR, the prominent Tehran religious figure Ayatollah Taleqani stated that the Iranian revolution reflects the aspirations of the people to put an end, once and for all, to oppression and enslavement. The Bakhtiar government, he stressed, has no support among the people and is propped up by the Americans alone. At the same time the ayatollah warned that the shah-appointed government is still capable of resistance and of spilling much of the people's blood.

Imperial Guards Attack Base

LD101729 Moscow TASS in English 1534 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

["Iran: Dangerous Provocations of Reaction"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 10, TASS--The situation in Tehran has aggravated sharply again. Units of Imperial Guards supported by tanks attacked the Farahabad air force training base in the southeastern suburb of the city wishing to crush cadets and junior officers of the base that participated in recent days in demonstrations in support of Khomeyni. Western correspondents report that no less than 60 people were killed in this fierce clash between adversaries and supporters of the shah's regime in the army ranks. The UPI reports that correspondent of the U.S. newspaper Los Angeles TIMES, G. Morris who was on the spot was killed in the exchange of fire.

The exchange of fire in Farahabad agitated the whole Tehran. Fearing that this exchange of fire might be a prelude to a military coup, thousands of Khomeyni's supporters rushed to his residence forming a bloc around it to protect Ayatollah Khomeyni if there is a threat to his life, a UPI correspondent writes. Tanks, armoured carriers, army trucks with machineguns installed on roofs of cabins appeared in Tehran's central streets and squares after the alarming night.

By mid-day veritable fighting was raging not only in the territory of the base but also in the adjoining streets. There were clashes and exchange of fire in the district of the Niavaar Palace of the shah, close to Tehran's international airport and the headquarters of the staff of the armed forces. Eyewitnesses report that fire swept a part of the Lavizan barracks of Imperial Guards. Military helicopters circled the Faharabad area. They were strafing the positions of air cadets. REUTER reports that one of the helicopters was shot down.

Observers express the opinion that today's clashes in Tehran were provoked by reactionary army leaders who look for the pretext for a military coup. Prominent Tehran religious leader Ayatollah Taleqani assessed today's events in the capital as a plot. According to the decree of the military authorities the curfew in Teheran was extended from today by seven-and-a-half hours.

Washington, February 10, TASS--A representative of the State Department of the USA confirmed that the United States continues backing the Iranian Government of Bakhtiar which represents the monarchic regime. Local political circles point out that the State Department came out with such a statement a few days after U.S. Ambassador at the United Nations Andrew Young had to admit in an interview to the West German SPIEGEL magazine that those who uphold in 1979 such a monarchy as the monarchy of the shah of Iran refuse to take into consideration the latest 250 years of history.

Tehran Situation Grows Worse

LD102238 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1330 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

[From the "International Diary" program presented by (Oleg Blinok)]

[Excerpt] I begin the broadcast with the latest reports which have reached us from Iran. Foreign news agencies report that mass demonstrations in support of Bazargan's provisional government are taking place in Tehran and other towns of the country today. The situation in the Iranian capital has grown much worse.

This morning at the Air Force base in Tehran's suburbs troops loyal to the shah again opened fire at a demonstration of Air Force cadets who had declared their solidarity with the anti-shah regime. Yesterday evening at this same base there was an armed incident between opponents of the shah's government and servicemen supporting the former regime. Tanks and units of the shah's guard were brought into the area of the base.

AP reports that as a result of these clashes some 20 were killed and over 250 injured. As a sign of solidarity with the cadets' insurrection the inhabitants of the districts of Tehran adjacent to the base staged a mass demonstration. Demonstrations attended by many thousands of people took place yesterday and today in other parts of the Iranian capital as well. The resolutions adopted by those who took part in these people's demonstrations note their resolve to fight for the liquidation of the monarchy in the country and for the resignation of the Bakhtiar cabinet.

Khomeyni Says Curfew Illegal

LD101816 Moscow TASS in English 1730 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

["On Situation in Iran"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 10, TASS--The leader of the popular anti-shah movement Khomeyni described the order of the military governor of Tehran to introduce the around-the-clock curfew as illegal. Khomeyni also urged his supporters to ignore it.

And despite the fact that after the curfew set in at 1630 additional contingents of troops were brought into the streets, demonstrators filled the town. In the eastern part of the capital around Farahabad base thousands of people are setting up barricades and digging out trenches. Servicemen of the base hand out weapons to people. The attempts of the shah's guards to seize the territory of the base ended in a fiasco. According to Western correspondents, the eastern part of Tehran was held by the evening by rebel units of the air force supported by civilian population. The exchange of fire in the town did not end when darkness set in. As a result of numerous fires, the town is shrouded in smoke. One of the biggest fires is blazing in the centre of the town near the premises of the staff of the armed forces.

FRANCE PRESSE reported that Khomeyni left his residence for "safety reasons" and is now in a "secure place," as his representatives said. A statement circulated in behalf of Khomeyni strongly condemns the attack of the shah's guards on Farahabad base and stresses that if the shah's troops do not cease bloody massacre of their brothers Khomeyni will declare a holy war on all supporters of the monarchy.

Khomeyni Interviewed on Future

LD111920 Moscow TASS in English 1759 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

[Text] New York, February 12, TASS--Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the anti-shah popular movement, gave an interview for the American magazine SEVEN DAYS. Khomeyni stated, in particular, that after the proclamation of an Islamic republic in Iran, its government will inherit a country ruined by the half-century rule of the Pahlavi dynasty. Our culture, our economy, our agriculture have been completely destroyed and paralyzed. the ayatollah pointed out. This is why the priority task will be the revival of agriculture and the continuation of industrialization.

Khomeyni said that it will be a matter for the future government of the republic to decide whether private property or that of the whole people will exist in the country, and this question must be decided in the interests of the majority of the people. He noted that a property gap, such as now divides various strata of Iran's population, was inadmissible. Khomeyni pointed out that religious figures should not serve on the cabinet of ministers, while all religious minorities of the country will be represented in Parliament and all Iranians, irrespective of their religious identity shall be eligible for election.

The republican government, Khomeyni stated, will not permit foreign interference in Iran's internal affairs. All agreements signed under the shah must be examined from the viewpoint of whether they are in the interests of the people, and if not--must be abrogated. Khomeyni noted that by supporting the shah's reactionary regime, the United States has earned the hatred of the Iranian people. The leader of the Iranian opposition confirmed once again that a republican Iran will sever relations with Israel which tramples upon the Arabs' rights. Israel, the ayatollah stressed, took part in training the agents of SAVAK--the Iranian secret police, and is an accomplice of its crimes.

Tehran Calmer After Army Withdrawal

LD111840 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Today Iran's Supreme Military Council withdrew its support of Premier Shahpur Bakhtiar. The council said that it had unanimously decided to announce its neutrality in the current political dispute in order to prevent further turmoil and bloodshed and to order all military units to return to their barracks. When the national radio network announced this decision, savage battles died down in Tehran and only several pockets of firing continued around the central Eshratabad army base. Fighting in the capital between forces supporting Bakhtiar's government and people backing opposition leader Ayatollah Khomeyni has left more than 200 dead and some 900 wounded in the last 24 hours. After the announcement, thousands of cheering Iranians emerged into the streets. No soldiers or police were to be seen anywhere in the town that was being patrolled by civilians.

In Tehran, the state radio quotes Khomeyni as saying that now that the army has agreed not to interfere in the political affairs the people should return to calm. There were reports from sources close to Bakhtiar's office that he was preparing to resign, presumably in favor of Khomeyni's appointee, Mehdi Bazargan.

Tehran Under Insurgents' Control

LD111842 Moscow World Service in English 1700 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

[Text] In Tehran, insurgents are gaining the upper hand following 2 days of fierce street fighting. International news agencies report that the Iranian capital now is practically in the hands of the insurgents. Its southern part alone is still witnessing battles against those who remain faithful to the shah regime. The insurgents have seized the government residence and put a large portrait of Ayatollah Khomeyni, the leader of the anti-shah movement, on the rooftop. There has been no news so far about Prime Minister Bakhtiar or other members of the government. The military governor of Tehran, Gen Mehdi Rahimi, has been arrested. The insurgents have taken over the television station. Its programs have resumed with an announcer saying: Listen to the genuine voice of the Iranian people. A communique of the Supreme Military Council has been broadcast. Facing the mass actions of the people, the council has decided on neutrality of the army. Up until now, the army has supported the shah regime. The council has ordered all troops to return to their barracks. Thousands of Iranians in Tehran streets have met the decision of the military with chanting: We have won.

Provisional Government Taking Over

LD120954 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 0500 GMT 12 Feb 79 LD

[Text] The situation in Iran: The Bakhtiar government appointed by the shah has been deposed by a people's uprising. A representative of the leader of the antishah opposition, Khomeyni, has announced that from today the Provisional Government of Iran is assuming its duties, with Bazargan as head. The parliament elected under the shah has been dissolved. Tehran Radio and Television have been placed under full control of the insurgents. In a communique broadcast on Iranian radio today, it says that the Iranian Army and the shah's Guard have gone over to the side of the people's revolution. In the communique, signed by the Provisional Operational Headquarters of the Revolutionary Government, there is also an appeal to the people to stop assaults on barracks and administrative buildings and to avoid damaging public property, since from now on it belongs to the people.

Yesterday evening it seemed as if the entire population of Tehran went into the streets to celebrate the fall of the shah's regime. There was mass fraternization between soldiers and insurgents. In another broadcast, Radio Iran announced the closure of all the country's borders and airports for 24 hours. In the radio broadcasts only Bazargan is named prime minister. The fate of Bakhtiar is unknown.

Bakhtiar's Resignation Reported

ID111716 Moscow TASS in English 1619 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

["Bakhtiar Resigns"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 11, TASS--An official spokesman for Khomeyni, the UPI agency reports, stated on Sunday evening that the shah-appointed Prime Minister Bakhtiar resigned, and the head of the provisional government Bazargan will start the execution of his duties on Monday. The spokesman underlines that Bakhtiar's resignation will be officially announced this night over the radio. The national radio, which resumed operations under the name "Voice of the Iranian Revolution," announced the dissolution of the Majlis--the lower chamber of the Iranian Parliament. With reference to a statement by Majlis Chairman Javad Said, the radio pointed out that all Majlis deputies resigned their mandates.

TASS Reports on Situation

ID111727 Moscow TASS in English 1652 GMT 11 Feb 79 LD

["Civil War Looms Large"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 11, TASS--The situation in Tehran is increasingly sharpening. Attacks by the shah's Imperial Guard against the Farahabad training base near the capital resulted in a steep activisation of oppositionary forces. According to news reports from Tehran, clashes resumed this morning between the insurgents and the Imperial Guard. The guardsmen were so far unable to crush the resistance of the mutinous military helped by the civilian population. Tanks have been brought into Tehran and all the roads leading to the capital are blocked by troops loyal to Bakhtair.

The territory of Tehran University is converted into a stronghold with barricades thrown up around it. This morning a several hundred-strong armed posse attacked an army base in the central sector of Tehran and bloody battles ensued. Radio Tehran announced that the base was captured by the people. According to the Iranian PARS agency, more than 200 people were killed and about 900 wounded in the last 24 hours in Tehran.

Hundreds of insurgents today occupied the building of the Israeli Embassy in Tehran which, according to available data, had been abandoned earlier by its staff. Demonstrators, who surrounded the embassy carrying portraits of Ayatollah Khomeyni, chanted "Israel, get out of Iran!" The Israeli Trade Mission in Tehran was also attacked and Khomeyni supporters managed to seize the mission's secret documents.

The Iranian capital has actually turned into a frontline city. Its streets are barred by scores of barricades formed of upturned bus coaches and cars, felled trees, metal gates and fences. According to oppositionary reports, air force servicemen, infantry and policemen are deserting en masse to join the insurgents with their weapons. The entire eastern sector of Tehran is controlled by the forces of the antishah opposition. Demonstrations in demand of overthrowing the monarchy are taking place in different areas of the city. Faced with these mass actions of the people the army leadership was forced to retreat. News agencies reported a communique of the Supreme Military Council broadcast over Tehran Radio. The communique says that the council passed a decision on the neutrality of the armed forces in Iran's current political conflict and ordered all troops to return to barracks.

The council adopted the decision, the communique says, in order to prevent anarchy and stop the bloodshed. The council underlined once again that the duty of the military is to defend the country's national independence and territorial integrity.

The AP agency underlines that the decision of the military council denies the Bakhtiar government its last support and opens the road for the transition of power to Khomeyni and his supporters.

News agency reports from Iran say that a few hours after the announcement of the Supreme Military Council's decision on the neutrality of the army, and ordering the troops back to barracks, crowds of Iranians took to the streets. Shouting "We have won, the army is with us" they began storming Bakhtiar's residence. Meanwhile the Council of Ministers held an extraordinary session during which, according to the FRANCE PRESSE Agency, Bakhtiar announced his resignation. The sentries guarding the lower chamber of parliament--the Majlis--voluntarily handed over the building to Khomeyni supporters and joined the insurgents.

At nightfall Tehran was almost completely in the hands of Khomeyni's supporters armed with automatic firearms and operating under the cover of armoured troop carriers, handed over to the insurgents by the soldiers who went over to the side of the people. According to reports by news agencies, groups of oppositionary forces arrested the chief of Tehran's military administration General Rahimi and occupied the residence of the government.

Prominent figure in the religious-political opposition, Ayatollah Taleqani appealed to the staff members of the National Iranian Radio and Television, on strike for four months, to resume their duties. In response to his appeal the Iranian radio broadcast an announcement that henceforth the radio is the "voice of the revolution, the true voice of the Iranian people."

The FRANCE PRESSE agency reports from Geneva that the Iranian Embassy in Switzerland decided to go over to the side of the Bazargan government. Demonstrations in support of the opposition are taking place in the majority of Iranian provincial centres.

Revolutionaries Capture Shah's Palace

LD121012 Moscow TASS in English 0945 GMT 12 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Tehran, February 12, TASS--Armed detachments of anti-shah revolutionary forces today took by strom the shah's Niavaran Palace in a northern suburb of Tehran. Troops of the Imperial Guard, including armoured units, that guarded the palace, surrendered and sided with the people.

A real battle flared up last night in Tehran's Saltanatabad district where the centre of American military advisors is located. The radio announced this morning that troops guarding the centre had ceased their resistance and surrendered to detachments of the people's forces.

Ayattollah Shariat-Madari, one of Khomeyni's followers, has called on rebel detachments no to attack military garrisons, to preserve and protect the property, documents and equipment of state institutions and ministries occupied by them.

U.S. Trying to Split Opposition

LD091519 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 79 Morning Edition P 4 LD

[Unattributed report from "Day in the Life of the Planet" feature prepared by S. Zykov: "Iran: Determination of the People, Intrigues of Reaction"--boldface as published]

[Text] THE SITUATION IN IRAN REMAINS EXTREMELY TENSE. UNDER THE CONDITIONS OF A VIRTUAL DIARCHY PRIME MINISTER BAKHTIAR, WITHOUT BROAD SUPPORT AMONG THE POPULAR MASSES, IS COUNTING MAINLY ON THE MILITARY UNITS LOYAL TO THE SHAH'S REGIME. But the army today is not homogeneous. The newspaper KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL reports that several hundred former officers, including several generals formerly dismissed for their opposition to the Shah, have expressed support for Khomeyni. All these officers, the newspaper points out, were closely linked with the army in the past and enjoy great influence. At the Shahrokhi Iranian Air Force Base near Hamadan a demonstration was staged by 3,000 servicemen in support of Khomeyni. Of these 800 were arrested and charged.

In an attempt to intimidate those taking part in the mass demonstrations on 6 February in support of Iran's provisional government appointed by opposition leader Khomeyni, units loyal to the shah blocked the entrances to the Majlis and cordoned off ministry buildings and Bakhtiar's residence. "Phantoms" roared over Tehran. At least 20 military helicopters were constantly circling in the air. Troops of the Tehran Garrison were placed on combat alert.

AFP reports that THE OPPOSITION HAS ANNOUNCED THAT IT WILL HOLD NEW MASS DEMONSTRATIONS THROUGHOUT IRAN ON 8 FEBRUARY TO MARK THE PEOPLE'S SUPPORT OF THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT HEADED BY BAZARGAN. KAYHAN HAS PUBLISHED THE NAMES OF SEVERAL MINISTERS. It is expected that all members of Bazargan's cabinet will be announced officially.

This government, its head has stated, will exercise real power. Speaking of the threats from the shah's henchmen--Bakhtiar and the generals who support him--Bazargan said: "We are all ready to face the bullets. No compacts will change the people's will." Analyzing the situation in Iran, the Tehran JOURNAL writes in this connection that "The opposition is driving Bakhtiar and his supporters into a corner from which they will have to emerge either fighting or with their hands above their heads."

Seeing the implacability of the processes taking place, many commentators stress, Bakhtiar's supporters ARE TRYING TO ADAPT TO THE SITUATION AND IF NOT TO SPLIT THE OPPOSITION THEN AT LEAST TO INTRODUCE DISCORD TO ITS RANKS. It is precisely this aspect on which they are commenting with respect to reports about Iran's planned withdrawal from CENTO and the Iranian Foreign Ministry's appeal to foreign states to "consider the profound meaning of the great Iranian revolution" in their relations with Iran.

The United States, worried by the development of events in Iran, is trying through its agents to demoralize the Iranian opposition from within by introducing provocateurs into its ranks and organizing a campaign against Khomeyni and his supporters, the Beirut weekly AL-KIFAH AL-'ARABI writes.

Seeking to provoke clashes between different religious groups in Iran, reaction is using undercover special services personnel in the guise of "religious figures" to set the people against Khomeyni. Bakhtiar's government is reporting their statements widely on radio and television. There is reliable evidence here that use is being made of Israeli agents who have suitable experience of provocative activity in Lebanon.

U.S. Didn't Learn From Vietnam

LD091528 Moscow in English to North America 0001 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Vladislav Kozyakov commentary]

[Text] The situation in Iran is still very tense and complicated, but despite this some definite conclusions can be drawn (?from these), the state of the shah regime and the policy pursued by the United States in regard to that country. [Words indistinct] seems to be once again (?controlled), that is, America (?is trying) the friendship of reactionary rulers in other countries. [passage indistinct]

Let us recall what has happened in Iran. Up until recently, Washington regarded the country as its policeman in the Persian Gulf. Iranian natural resources were depleted by Western monopolies. The Pentagon installed military bases in the country. The bulk of the national income was spent on buying (?military) [word indistinct]. Iran was overcrowded with Pentagon [word indistinct] and CIA agents. This explains why politicians in Washington called the shah one of their best friends. And it also explains why the nationwide people's movement has risen in Iran. What was (?good) for the shah and his supporters in the United States ran counter to the interests of the Iranian people.

Today's revolutionary movement in Iran reflects the (?deepest) aspirations of the entire nation. Its major demands are to get rid of the antipeople's regime and to put an end to American interference in the country's internal affairs. But what [word indistinct] the American public (?knows) in my view is that the events in Iran are not an isolated case. In fact they are demonstrating the consequences of the United States global strategy based on installing and (?keeping) reactionary regimes wherever possible.

It is noteworthy in this connection that the leaders of the present administration have admitted that the United States (?had) made (?an assault) in Vietnam. Speaking in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said 2 days ago that the lessons of Vietnam were being taken into account. He said the United States had supported the regime in Saigon which had no popular backing. He also noted that the United States (?had) been trying to force Western-type institutions on other people.

But is it really true that the lessons are being taken into account today? It is obvious that that would mean not only to avoid any military intervention abroad. What is no less [word indistinct] is to avoid any interference in other nations' domestic affairs and first of all to put an end to [words indistinct] puppet reactionary regimes in other countries. [Words indistinct] this lesson of Vietnam has not been taken into account by today's policymakers in Washington. The United States are still supporting dictatorial, racist and fascist rulers in various parts of the world, among them are the reactionary regimes in South Korea, in South Africa, in Chile, Nicaragua and some other Latin American countries. The regimes are hated by the peoples of those countries and they keep existing forcibly due to the help from the United States. [Words indistinct] national liberation movements get the upper hand.

So the present events in Iran are one example to show that the United States policy of (?aiding) reactionary rulers is both unrealistic and dangerous. This is an (?absolute) policy that [words indistinct].

CARTER ASKS EGYPT, ISRAEL TO RECONVENE CAMP DAVID TALKS

LD091846 Moscow TASS in English 1751 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

["On Orders from Washington"--TASS headline]

[Text] New York, February 9, TASS--Doing its utmost to force the conclusion of a separate "peace treaty" between Israel and Egypt, the United States decided to reconvene the participants in the deal at Camp David once again. The invitation to the foreign ministers of the two countries to arrive in the United States on February 21 for another round of negotiations was extended by President J. Carter personally. For a long time already, Washington has been clearly annoyed by the fact that the Egyptian-Israeli bargaining was overextended. It needs an immediate conclusion of an agreement which would, on the one hand, create for the United States the reputation of a "peacemaker" and, on the other, free the U.S. diplomacy to strengthen the U.S. presence in the Middle East.

The first to respond to the invitation to come in Camp David was Egypt's President as-Sadat who, literally in a few hours, cabled his agreement announcing that he will send to Camp David not the minister but Egypt's head of state Khalil.

Israel's position will be officially decided at a government meeting on February 11. However, reports from Tel Aviv say that the question has already been decided in principle and the government meeting will only decide who will be included by Israeli Foreign Minister Dayan in his entourage.

On the eve of the resumption of the direct contacts with Israel, Egyptian officials and the press are making much of the "firmness" of the Egyptian position. The exercise aims at deceiving the public opinion since it is known that in the next round of the negotiations the proposal to Egypt will be to accept the Israeli demands and to renege, once and for all, on its commitments with regard to other Arab countries and to make new concessions entailing loss of national sovereignty and independence. Today, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Israeli Knesset (parliament) Arens declared that after signing the peace treaty As-Sadat will not be able to demand Israel's withdrawal behind the 4 June 1967 armistice line, i.e., he will have to agree to Israel's territorial acquisitions at the expense of Arab countries.

Amman, February 9, TASS--In the opinion of the Amman newspaper AL-AKHBAR the U.S. initiative to sponsor another meeting between Egyptian and Israeli representatives can be explained by Egypt's increasing isolation from other Arab countries, its weakening and transformation into a militarily and politically helpless, vis-a-vis a "strong" Israel, participant in the separate deal. The new Camp David will confirm the occupation regime on the occupied Arab territories and the policy of expanded Israeli settlements in the occupied areas, the newspaper stresses.

Beirut, February 9, TASS--According to newspaper AL-LIWA, the U.S. administration is trying to boost As-Sadat's morale and give him hope for a resumption of Israeli-Egyptian negotiations and conclusion of a separate peace. Washington, after Iran's freeing from U.S. influence, assigns Egypt a special role in its Middle East and African strategy, grooms it for a role of policeman in Africa and the Arab world trying to turn it into another, besides Israel, base for spreading U.S. influence in the Middle East.

U.S. Seeks Military Alliance

LD091942 Moscow World Service in English 1500 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Yuriy Soltan commentary]

[Text] It has been announced in Washington that there will be a meeting in the second half of this month between Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, the Egyptian prime minister, Mustafa Khalil and the U.S. State Secretary, Cyrus Vance, who will be acting as the mediator at the talks. More from our Washington correspondent, Yuriy Soltan. And this is what he writes:

The goal of the forthcoming meeting is to break the deadlock in the talks on the separatist deal between Egypt and Israel, the sound basis of which was laid in Camp David last year. The signing of a treaty was suspended mainly because of the attitude taken by other Arab countries, including Saudi Arabia, which gives Egypt considerable financial support. Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat, fearing political and economic sanctions from the Arab countries, asked Israel to soften at least outwardly, its tough position toward the Palestinians and reflect it in the wording of the treaty. Israel made no concessions, however. Nevertheless, under Washington's pressure, Egypt agreed to another meeting. Washington thinks that in view of the failure of the pro-American regime in Iran, the further procrastination in signing of an Israeli-Egyptian treaty should be avoided. Such a treaty, they say in Washington, will help the United States to get access to the Middle East oil and create a pro-American military alliance there connected with NATO, but without official recognition of the fact, for suppressing the national liberation movements in the Arab world.

It is reported there are plans to unite, under American influence, Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and, according to the latest reports, North Yemen. The United States is to support this alliance militarily and Saudi Arabia financially, while Israel is to become its shock force. Concrete steps have already been made. The U.S. defense secretary, Harold Brown, heads a special mission in the Middle East now. The Washington press notes he is to consider Israel's request for increasing military aid and speeding up the supplies of modern American weaponry including the F-16 fighters. In Cairo, he is to discuss the possibility of establishing an American intelligence base there, similar to the one in Iran. In Saudi Arabia, Harold Brown is to reaffirm the U.S. military pledges and reassure the country's leaders as to the United States' unfailing support. And North Yemen is to be offered $200 million aid for purchasing American weapons.

DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN SEEKING NEW MIDEAST MILITARY BLOC

LD101530 Moscow TASS in English 1040 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

["SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA on U.S. Defense Secretary's Middle East Tour"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 10, TASS--Washington is seeking to knock together a new military bloc which, on its instructions, would perform police functions in the Middle East, SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA points out. Commenting on the Pentagon chief's tour of the Middle East, the newspaper writes that plans to set up such a bloc have been in the making for a long time. The contemplated military grouping, by analogy with NATO, has been already given the name--a Middle East Treaty Organization (METO). Many states of the region, however, regard the U.S. idea rather coolly. And this is understandable. While the USA talks of a "Soviet threat" to the Middle East, U.S. monopolies continue to shamelessly plunder the resources of the area and rake huge superprofits.

Now that the USA is fearing the final loss of Iran which has fora long time performed the role of U.S. imperialism's one of main military-political places d'armes [as received] in the Near and Middle East, Washington started looking for new fulcrums, the commentary says. This search met with full "understanding" in Israel and Egypt. Tel Aviv, previously as well, repeatedly stated its desire to be "an extension of NATO". As for Cairo, the Egyptian leadership that embarked on the road of betrayal of the interests of the Arabs, today openly offers its services to the United States. President as-Sadat already promised the sultan of Oman to send his troops to replace Iranian contingents in Dhofar.

Harold Brown's mission also pursues another aim: to market large batches of U.S. weapons in the Middle East. The point is that Iran annulled billions-worth contracts which had been concluded with U.S. military-industrial monopolies. At present the "death merchants" are demanding an urgent assistance from the Pentagon in the cause of marketing their products.

Seeks Strengthened Mideast Presence

LD092220 Moscow TASS in English 1952 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

["Washington's Dangerous Manoeuvres"--TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow, February 9, TASS--TASS commentator Sergey Stolitskiy writes:

In connection with the events in Iran, which vividly demonstrated all the strength of anti-American sentiments in the Middle East and in Southwest Asia, Washington is feverishly seeking means to consolidate its military-political and economic positions in the region. It is at this angle of view that one should regard U.S. Defense Secretary Harold Brown's visit to Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt and Israel.

According to press reports, the Pentagon chief's visit has many aims. Above all, though, Washington seeks to strengthen its military presence at a time when Iran refuses to go on functioning as a U.S. policeman in the area of the Persian Gulf. Harold Brown, notes the French paper LE MONDE with reference to well-informed sources, "will sound out the possibility of concluding agreements on regional defense between Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the U.S. with Israel's tacit consent." It is clearly realized in Washington that pushing ahead with plans to create military alliances directly depends on the achievement of a political deal--the signing of a separate peace by Cairo and Tel Aviv. The United States is not losing hope to bring the separate bargain to fruition.

Scaring the region's countries with the "red danger" bogus, Washington in exchange for its demonstrative support, military included, to the regimes on the Arabian Peninsula, wants to prevail upon Saudi Arabia and some other countries of the region to approve the Egyptian-Israeli separate treaty. The bargaining around the separate deal which Washington is trying to impose on these countries, the revival of regional military block which trundle along in the wake of America's "gunboat diplomacy" can only sharpen the situation in this already explosive part of the world.

There is only one way towards a genuine solution of the Middle East conflict--Israel's withdrawal from all Arab territories it occupied in 1967, including the eastern part of Jerusalem, full respect for the legitimate rights of the Arab people of Palestine, including its right to create its own independent state, and ensuring reliably guaranteed security of all the region's countries.

COMMENTARY URGES MAGHREB SOLUTION TO WESTERN SAHARA PROBLEM

LD100810 Moscow in Arabic to North Africa 1830 GMT 8 Feb 79 LD

[From "Window on the Arab World" program]

[Excerpts] Under the headline "An Example of the Unity of the Maghreb Countries," our commentator writes:

It was precisely 21 years ago, on 8 February 1958, that the imperialists committed a horrible crime against the Tunisian people. On that day, imperialist planes carried out a barbaric raid against the peaceful village of Sakiet Sidi Youssef, killing innocent people, including children, women and the aged. The entire village was turned into debris. When the imperialists committed this criminal act against the nascent sovereign state, they hoped to frighten the Tunisian people and thereby force them to abandon their plans for independent development and to put an end to their support for struggling Algeria. But their hopes soon faded. The persecution, provocations, terror and pressures could not destroy the ties of friendship and solidarity which bound the Tunisian and Algerian peoples. The Tunisians and Moroccans helped the fraternal Algerian people out of their conviction that the independence of Tunisia and Morocco could never be complete until Algeria also attained its independence.

History has convincingly shown that the peoples of the Maghreb have triumphed over the enemy, despite his might, when they closed their ranks and are united by ties of friendship. Now that the countries of the Maghreb have come a long way on the road of independent development, one feels that all the necessary conditions are now present for the establishment of relations among them on the basis of neighborliness and friendship. But during the last 3 years the situation in North Africa has been a cause for concern. The question of the Western Sahara has poisoned relations among the Maghreb countries. The escalation of tension has created economic difficulties for them and has devoured the reserves needed for their economic and social development.

Mauritania is a good example of this. Because of its huge military expenditures, Mauritania found itself at the brink of economic catastrophe. This led to the fall of the Ould Daddah regime.

Nobody benefits from keeping the center of dangerous tension aflame in northwest Africa--except for the forces of imperialism and neocolonialism. These forces are working to create a new area of conflict, to divide the ranks of the Arab peoples and to divert their eyes from a solution to the principle problem in the Middle East --the liquidation and elimination of the consequences of Israeli aggression.

The Maghreb countries can and, indeed, must find a peaceful and just solution to the Western Sahara problem. Such a settlement could be reached on the basis of the well-known UN resolutions. The Maghreb peoples are bound together by a common historical destiny and by a common way of life, language and cultural tradition. They are also bound together by broad economic relations. Restoring relations of neighborliness and cooperation among them will enable them to solve the vital issues of their internal development in the face of imperialism. Sakiet Sidi Youssef calls on them to do so. It is the unforgettable symbol of Maghreb solidarity in the years of struggle for liberation.

NIGERIANS' LACK OF INTEREST IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN VIEWED

LD092324 Moscow in English to Africa 1630 GMT 6 Feb 79 LD

[Vladlen Mikhaylov commentary]

[Text] Although the date for this year's general elections in Nigeria has not been officially announced, the election campaign is already underway. Eligible for running the elections, by decision of the Federal Election Commission, are 5 of the 52 political parties. While the commission's decision is being contested by many statesmen the selected parties have, on the whole, determined their candidates to stand for the local and federal bodies of government. They have also nominated their candidates to the post of president. According to the Lagos newspaper DAILY TIMES, Nigeria has been engulfed by a wave of election meetings. The Nigerian press has been commenting on them extensively, but according to local observers, the interest in the election campaign among the wide sections of the population is very small. This is explained by the fact that the parties' elections programs are nothing but general statements without any constructive ideas on the way of Nigeria's further development. This view is borne out by letters to the editorial offices of newspapers from ordinary Nigerians. For instance, in his letter to the SUNDAY EXPRESS, (Segun Osiboya) of the (Odogbolu) grammar school expresses disappointment that the party candidates avoid to speak about their ways of solving the complex economic and social problems facing Nigeria.

A wave of strikes that has swept across the country over the last few months points to the further deepening of social contradictions. The strikes have involved the dockers and drivers, teachers and employees of a number of private companies. The working people are demanding that the burdens caused by the restructuring of the national economy be shouldered equally by various layers of society and that the social reforms proclaimed by the federal government be implemented in full.

The working people have also been voicing serious concern over statements by representatives of the local business to abolish state control over the activities of foreign capitalists in the country and grant a number of benefits and privileges to companies from overseas. The working people are no doubt aware that this means a stop to the struggle for Nigeria's economic independence and a surrender to the neocolonialist forces.

SUPREME SOVIET COMMISSIONS APPROVE ETHIOPIAN TREATY

LD091321 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 8 Feb 79 Morning Edition pp 1, 3 LD

[TASS report: "In Interests of Strengthening Peace and International Security: Joint Session of USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of Union and Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commissions"]

[Excerpts] A joint session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commissions was held 7 February in the Kremlin. The commissions recommended that the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium ratify the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and socialist Ethiopia signed in Moscow 20 November 1978 by L.I. Brezhnev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and Mengistu Haile Mariam, chairman of socialist Ethiopia's Provisional Military Administrative Council and Council of Ministers.

The following sat at the Presidium table: M.A. Suslov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union commission, CPSU Central Committee Politburo member and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee; B.N. Ponomarev, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities commission, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

K.V. Rusakov, member of the Soviet of Nationalities commission and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in the session's work.

The following attended the session: I.G. Kebin, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium; A.P. Shitikov and V.P. Ruben, chairmen of the USSR Supreme Soviet chambers; M.P. Georgadze, secretary of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

The session was held under the chairmanship of M.A. Suslov.

The USSR Council of Ministers' proposal regarding ratification of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and socialist Ethiopia which the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium submitted for the commissions' conclusion was discussed.

N.P. Firyubin, USSR deputy foreign minister, delivered a report at the session on behalf of the Soviet Government.

The conclusion of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and Ethiopia, he said, is an important political act which ushers in a new stage in the development of our bilateral relations with that ancient African country. The links between the USSR and Ethiopian peoples have always been traditionally friendly. But Soviet-Ethiopian cooperation has become truly multifaceted and has begun to embrace a broad range of the two peoples' life and activity since the national democratic revolution in Ethiopia and since that country's people chose the socialist-oriented path in their development.

The treaty is permeated by the sides' concern for strengthening peace and international security, N.P. Firyubin declared. In it the USSR and Ethiopia demonstrated their desire to deepen the process of detente, to extend it to all regions of the world and to implement it in specific forms of mutually advantageous cooperation among states with the aim of settling international disputes by peaceful means. The sides also stated their determination to actively promote the cause of general and complete disarmament, including nuclear disarmament, and also to act energetically for the final elimination of colonialism, neocolonialism, racism and apartheid and for the full implementation of the UN declaration on the granting of independence to colonial countries and peoples.

The treaty between the USSR and Ethiopia is a document of great international importance. It has met with total support from the peoples of the Soviet Union and Ethiopia, the socialist community countries, and progressive forces in Africa and throughout the world. It must be noted that this treaty assumes particular importance as a factor for stability and peace in the Horn of Africa, where a political settlement has still not been reached and imperialist and reactionary circles are continuing their provocative, subversive actions against progressive forces.

The conclusion of the treaty is opposed only by those who seek to impede the progressive transformations on the African Continent, who fear the strengthening of the developing states' cooperation with the socialist countries, and who are attempting to cast aspersions on the Soviet Union's policy in Africa; the present Beijing leaders are playing a particularly unsavory role in this direction.

This document, N.P. Firyubin said in conclusion, is entirely in accordance with the theses enshrined in the USSR Constitution.

Then the discussion began.

The speakers proposed that the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and socialist Ethiopia be approved and recommended for ratification by the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.

Summing up the results of the discussion, B.N. Ponomarev, chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities commission, stressed that friendship and cooperation have traditionally characterized the relations between the two states' peoples. Soviet people, he said, warmly welcomed the victory of the antifeudal, antimonarchic revolution in Ethiopia. He recalled L.I. Brezhnev's remark about the Soviet Union's relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation with socialist Ethiopia. These relations, L.I. Brezhnev said, are based on "...the common interests of the socialist states and the developing countries and the desire to pool efforts in the struggle for the peoples' independent development and social progress, for lasting peace and against aggression and the arms race."

B.N. Ponomarev went on the characterize the victory of the Ethiopian revolution as an outstanding success of the national liberation movement. The people of one of the biggest African countries overthrew a reactionary monarch and have started implementing profound socioeconomic and political transformations in the interests of the broad working people's masses and the country's democratic development, with a view to consolidating national independence. Ethiopia has resolutely joined the ranks of the progressive states, which are in the vanguard of the African people's struggle against imperialism, colonialism and racism and which set themselves the historical aim of building a society without exploitation of man by man.

The successful headway made by Ethiopia's people along their chosen path, the speaker continued, is yet another vivid testimony to the strengthening alliance of the forces of national liberation and world socialism. Thus when international imperialism in alliance with reactionary and aggressive forces attempted to stifle revolutionary Ethiopia, the Soviet Union, Cuba and the other socialist countries came to the aid of the freedom-loving Ethiopian people at their government's request and in complete accordance with the UN principles.

The Ethiopian revolution's success strengthens the positions of the forces of peace and progress on the African Continent, provide a new stimulus for the struggle which Africa's peoples are waging against the colonial racist regimes. It cogently demonstrates once again to the independent countries and the entire national liberation movement that, given the present correlation of forces in the world, they can successfully resist imperialism and defend their gains.

The Ethiopian people's militant revolutionary spirit, readiness to defend the revolution's gains and their country's territorial integrity, and their efforts to implement progressive political and socioeconomic transformations have always evoked and continue to evoke a deep response in Soviet people's hearts.

The content of the Soviet-Ethiopian treaty, the speaker stressed, accords with the peace-loving and anti-imperialist policy line of the CPSU and the Soviet state. The treaty is one more vivid example of the practical implementation of the program of further struggle for peace, international cooperation and the freedom and independence of the peoples, approved by the 25th CPSU Congress.

The Soviet-Ethiopian treaty has been concluded in complete accordance with the interests of our peoples and with the aims and principles of the UN Charter. It is not directed against any third countries. It is dictated by concern for the development of broad international cooperation and will be an important factor for peace and stability in that region of the world.

Support for the present treaty from the USSR Supreme Soviet of the Union and Soviet of Nationalities Foreign Affairs Commissions, B.N. Ponomarev said in conclusion, is entirely in accordance with the lofty aims of the Leninist foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, and with our sincere desire to develop and strengthen relations of friendship and cooperation with Ethiopia's people.

The chairman of the Soviet of Nationalities commission submitted a proposal that the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between the USSR and socialist Ethiopia under consideration be approved and that the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium be recommended to ratify this treaty.

This proposal was adopted unanimously.

DJIBOUTI BEGINNING TO SOLVE ITS 'COMPLEX PROBLEMS'

LD120927 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 4 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Correspondent V. Korovikov report: "The Hot Land of Djibouti"]

[Excerpts] Djibouti-Addis Abana 4 February--The Republic of Djibouti, the last colony in this region once known as "French Somaliland," gained its independence in a difficult and complex atmosphere. The colonialists played skillfully on the contradictions among the country's indigenous inhabitants--nomadic herdsmen of the Afar and Issa nationalities, who frequently fought among themselves for possession of meager pastures and rare wells. This rivalry was often whipped up by the colonial administration.

The continued French presence was also prompted by the acute contradictions, to the point of outright war, between Djibouti's two neighbors--Ethiopia and Somalia. Somali nationalists' claims and attempts to include Djibouti in "greater Somalia," although only part of the former colony's population is of Somali extraction, enabled France to present itself as "defender" of Djibouti independence. Even now a struggle between liberation and neocolonialist trends in Djibouti's internal political life is clearly apparent, embracing many aspects of life in the young republic.

The former parent state retained firm positions in this old bridgehead in East Africa. A major military base was left behind--the biggest foreign base on the entire African continent. According to London's NEW AFRICA magazine more than 5,000 French soldiers are now billeted in Djibouti, including a Foreign Legion brigade. The port of Djibouti is used by a French squadron stationed permanently in the Indian Ocean.

Approximately one-half of the country's population lives in the capital, and employment and income for most of its residents depend above all on the work of the port and the railroad which runs from the sea to the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa. One-half of Ethiopia's exports and imports now pass through Djibouti. Thousands of laborers and office workers are employed in the big port (its deep-water docks stretch for nearly 3 km) and on the railroad. This is Djibouti's main source of income.

But before the proclamation of independence the railroad stopped because of the military conflict which flared up in the Horn of Africa. Tens of thousands of people fled from regions in Djibouti which were involved in fighting. The country found itself on the brink of economic collapse--prices rose frenetically; the traditional deliveries of meat, vegetables and grain from Ethiopia stopped; and unemployment--already immense--increased. And it was only in summer 1978, thanks to the efforts of Ethiopian workers and technicians, that the damaged railroad was restored and freight once more moved through Djibouti.

Political difficulties are compounding the economic upheavals. Differences within the republic's leading political circles have not been overcome. Hassan Gouled Aptidon, the country's president and a man with rich experience of life, who played a prominent role in the independence struggle for more than 20 years, advocates political consolidation and the strengthening of national unity in the country so as to prevent a new exacerbation of tribal discords.

In foreign policy the Djibouti Government proclaims the principles of strict neutrality--which is particularly important in view of the continuing tension in the Horn of Africa. The republic is gradually expanding its foreign ties. It has become a UN member. A number of diplomatic missions have already opened in its capital, including a Soviet Embassy.

Despite many difficulties, the poverty of its internal resources, its small population and its economic dependence, the Republic of Djibouti has emerged and has begun to resolve its complex problems.

TANZANIAN PARTY SUCCESSES NOTED ON ANNIVERSARY OF MERGER

LD091557 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 5 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[Text] Dar es Salaam, 4 February, TASS--Exactly 2 years ago, on 5 February 1977, the Tanganyika African National Union and the Afro-Shirazi Party operating in Zanzibar merged to form the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania. This event proved an important landmark in the history of the young republic.

The unified party, which aims at building a socialist society in Tanzania, is a mighty weapon of the working class and peasantry of the mainland and island parts of the country in implementing progressive socioeconomic transformations. Following the principles of the 1967 Arusha Declaration, the Revolutionary Party heads the entire society's struggle for the republic's economic, social and cultural development.

In the international arena the Tanzanian ruling party pursues a policy of nonalinement and peaceful coexistence between states with different sociopolitical systems and actively advocates liquidation of the last centers of colonialism and racism on African soil.

Relations of fruitful and friendly cooperation have developed between the Revolutionary Party of Tanzania and the CPSU and other socialist community countries' communist and workers parties.

INDOCHINA

HANOI RALLY COMMEMORATES VICTORY OVER CHINESE AGGRESSORS

LD121051 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 3 Feb 79 p 4 LD

[TASS report: "Glorious Date"]

[Excerpts] Hanoi, 2 February--The Vietnamese people have widely marked a glorious date in the history of the struggle for the motherland's freedom and independence--the 190th anniversary of the victory over an army of Chinese aggressors at Dong Da, near Hanoi. Ceremonies have been held in all provinces, and exhibitions marking the portentous anniversary have opened.

A rally in Hanoi's municipal theater was also devoted to the glorious anniversary, with representatives of the republic's Fatherland Front Central Committee, the capital's party and people's committees, the Hanoi Military District headquarters and representatives of the city's public participating. Addressing the rally, Nguyen Khanh Toan, chairman of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam Social Sciences Committee, emphasized the tremendous historic significance of the victory at Dong Da, which led to the country's liberation and the expulsion of the aggressors' 200,000-strong army. This victory, he pointed out, was one of the Vietnamese people's greatest feats in their struggle against foreign aggression and graphic testimony to the Vietnamese nation's love of peace.

The army and people of Vietnam, Nguyen Khanh Toan declared, are prepared to continue with honor the heroic traditions of the struggle for freedom, to bear aloft the glorious banners of national independence and socialism, to strengthen the motherland's defense capability and to make a worthy contribution to the defense of peace, friendship, stability and prosperity in Southeast Asia and throughout the world.

USSR, LAOS SIGN ECONOMIC-TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT

LD101916 Moscow TASS in English 0957 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Vientiane, February 10, TASS--The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Democratic Republic of Laos issued here a statement on the results of successful talks between the government delegations of the USSR and Laos and the signing of an agreement on economic and technical cooperation between the two countries for 1979-1980.

The first official friendly visit by a Soviet Government delegation and the results of the talks are a new important step in the further development of versatile contacts between the two countries, the statement points out. The implementation of this agreement will promote a successful carrying out of socio-economic transformations and the building of an economic basis of socialism. The statement emphasizes that friendly relations between the two countries are based on the firm principles of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism. The two government delegations reaffirmed once again that they will make efforts to develop and strengthen cooperation in the economic, scientific, technical and other fields, to promote a further flourishing of Soviet-Laotian relations.

BRIEFS

LAO BRIDGE-BUILDING CONTRACT--A contract has been signed between USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and the Ministry of Communications, Public Works and Transport of the Lao People's Democratic Republic. It provides for technical assistance in conducting survey and design work for two major bridges in Laos. It is intended to complete the first stage of the contract--the survey work--this year. [Text] [Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 31 Jan 79 LD]

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS SESSION ASSESSES ECONOMIC SHORTCOMINGS

LD091626 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 1500 GMT 9 Feb 79 LD

[Text] A session of the USSR Council of Ministers was held in Moscow today. Under review are the results of fulfilling the USSR state plan for economic and social development, the USSR state budget for 1978 and January 1979 and also measures to insure plan and budget fulfillment for 1979.

It was noted that further successes were achieved in the development of all branches of the national economy and in raising the material and cultural level of the people's life.

Together with this, in the work of industry, agriculture, transport and capital construction there occurred shortcomings throughout 1978 and in January 1979. Tasks were not fulfilled for oil extraction, mining of coal and peat, production of ferrous rolled metal, mineral fertilizers, procurement of cattle and poultry, meat production and a host of other types of products. Serious inefficiencies in the work of railroads are being slowly corrected.

The USSR Council of Ministers has charged ministers and departmental heads of the USSR and the union republic Councils of Ministers to analyze in detail the results of economic work during the past year and January 1979 and to work out and implement measures with a view to eliminating shortcomings in order to insure the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the 1979 plan.

Special attention is being paid to the need to commission projects on time, master new production capacities and to reduce considerably the volume of uncompleted construction and unassembled equipment. It is [word indistinct] to insure in all possibly ways the production of consumer goods, to improve and broaden their variety and raise their quality.

It has been proposed to the union republics' Councils of Ministers and branch ministries to adopt measures for the successful completion of wintering animals and for fulfilling and overfulfilling this year the plans and pledges regarding production and sale to the state of meat, milk and other animal products, as well as to insure the preparation for and the well-organized execution of fieldwork.

Comrade Kosygin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo, made a speech at the session. Comrade Kirilenko, member of the Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, participated in the session's work.

KARAKUM IRRIGATION CANAL EXTENDED INTO TURKMENIA

LD120942 Moscow TASS in English 1901 GMT 10 Feb 79 LD

[Text] Ashkhabad, February 10, TASS--TASS correspondent Ivan Rogachev writes:

The 1,000-kilometer Karakum Canal, which starts from the large river Amu Darya, has reached the southwest of Soviet Turkmenia (Central Asia) which has neither rivers nor lakes. These places were considered the most arid even in the Karakum Desert where summer temperature reaches 50 degrees centigrade in the shade.

The first furrows have already been cut on the new lands to lay the beginning for a big cotton-growing oasis, the eighth one on the Karakum Canal. The first section of this canal, 400 kilometers long, was built in 1959. Construction costs were recouped in no time. Farmers in the new oasis will grow cotton of valuable fine-fibre varieties.

There are many fertile lands in Turkmenia but only one-tenth of them are used for lack of water. The Karakum Canal, which is being built with the participation of people of almost 40 nationalities of the Soviet Union, has helped enlarge three-fold the irrigated area in this republic and increase cotton production many-fold. At present Turkmenia harvests yearly over a million tonnes of raw cotton.

Construction work on the canal is going on. Big crop-growing and cattle-breeding farms are set up on the reclaimed lands. There are even some fishery farms which breed various species of fishes from carp to beluga (great sturgeon) in man-made reservoirs along the canal route. In places where one could formerly see only rare huts of nomads there are now villages and towns drowned in verdure, railways and motor-roads, gas and oil pipelines. A large lake with sand beaches has appeared at the outskirts of Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenia, to become a favourite summer resort of city residents. The Karakum Canal is navigable along the length of 500 milometers. It is used to carry various goods to neighbouring Afghanistan. All these changes have been a result of the planned reclamation of the desert in Soviet times.

BRIEFS

ALL-UNION GOLD CONFERENCE--A delegation from Magadan Oblast including leading workers, heads of mining enterprises and leading specialists leaded by Ustinov, general director of the Severovostokzoloto Association, has left for Krasnoyarsk to take part in an all-union conference. The 2-day conference, which will open tomorrow, will discuss last year's results of enterprises under the Union Glavzoloto Association and outline new tasks for the fourth year of the 5-year plan in accordance with the decisions of the November 1978 CPSU Central Committee Plenum. [Magadan Domestic Service in Russian 0755 GMT 6 Feb 79 OW]

KAMCHATKA RADIO CENTER--The radio center of the Kamchatka Maritime Steamship Line operates 24 hours a day and keeps in contact with seamen at sea, its main task being to insure safe navigation. It begins transmitting the "Captain's Hour" at 0005, providing radio telephone communications between supervisors and vessel captains. During this period supervisers are informed of the work schedule and what measures must be taken to insure the most efficient control of the fleet. Following the "Captain's Hour," the center can be used for private radio telephone conversations between crew members and their families. Radio telegraph, which handles 25 million words a year, is also extensively used at the center. The radio center is equipped with new automated transmitters and new highly dependable receivers that are tuned automatically, thus reducing the time an operator must spend in changing from one frequency to another. [Vladivostok Maritime Service in Russian to the Pacific Far East 0710 GMT 7 Feb 79 OW]

MAGADAN-PEVEK AIR ROUTE--The Magadan aviators have opened a new direct air route between Magadan and Pevek. The first IL-18 flight from Magadan to Pevek lasted 2 hours 30 minutes. Formerly YAK-40 and AN-24 planes were used on this route with stopovers en route. Arrival of a TU-154 from Moscow is expected at Pevek airport in a few more days to inaugurate direct service on the Moscow-Pevek route. [Magadan Domestic Service in Russian 0755 GMT 5 Feb 79 OW]